

Soviets come 'too close' to U.S. ship

ABOARD USS TRENTON, off Lebanon (R) — A Soviet destroyer shadowing U.S. warships off Lebanon came close to collision with an American ship carrying more than 500 Marines evacuated from Beirut, according to the commander of the USS Trenton. Captain Robert Cooper said a Soviet Kashin-type destroyer bore down on a line of five U.S. ships and turned away at the last minute under the bows of the leading American ship 700 metres away. "It was awfully close... I was angry," he said, describing the incident to journalists on the USS Trenton, an 8,720-ton amphibious landing dock carrying 540 Marines and 350 crew. He said the incident occurred about 10 days ago, just after the 1,600 Marines of the Beirut Multi-National Force pulled out of their Beirut base to the five ships cruising in the Mediterranean off Lebanon.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

PLO to step up armed struggle

BAHRAIN (R) — The 33-member Palestinian Higher Military Council ended a meeting in Sana'a Friday stressing the need to escalate the struggle against Israel. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said. The officials, contacted by telephone in the North Yemen capital, said the three-day meeting under the chairmanship of PLO leader Yasser Arafat discussed all organisational and administrative questions relating to Palestinian fighters. They said the council reviewed ways and means to continue the armed struggle "against the Zionist enemy forces inside our occupied homeland and occupied South Lebanon and the need to escalate it." Mr. Arafat arrived in Sana'a from Saudi Arabia on Wednesday and met North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. About 3,000 Palestinian fighters and their dependents settled in North Yemen after they were forced out of Lebanon in 1982 and 1983.

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Qawasmeh supports criticism of U.S.

NEW YORK (Petra) — A leading Palestinian figure, Faid Al Qawasmeh Thursday supported His Majesty King Hussein's statement Thursday that the U.S. has lost its credibility as a mediator in the Middle East and said the King's view reflects world opinion as well as the view of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. Speaking in an interview with the U.S. television NBC, Mr. Qawasmeh reaffirmed that the U.S. has become totally biased in favour of Israel without taking into consideration its interests in the Arab World. Mr. Qawasmeh, who had been serving as the mayor of the occupied West Bank town of Hebron, was deported by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1981 for his nationalistic stands.

Li arrives in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — Chinese President Li Xianmin arrived in Istanbul Friday after concluding three days of official talks with his Turkish counterpart Kenan Evren in the capital of Ankara. Mr. Li, the 74-year-old head of state, is on a six-day visit to Turkey. He will spend three days sightseeing here before departing for Nepal on Monday. He has already visited Pakistan and Jordan.

Li thanks King, Jordanian people, page 3

2 Israeli soldiers wounded in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded Friday when an explosive charge went off as their patrol passed near the South Lebanese village of Habouch north of Nabatieh, an Israeli army spokesman said. He declined to comment on a report by Beirut's right-wing Flamingo radio that an Israeli armoured patrol probed an area north of Israel's Awali River line.

Romania urges end to Gulf war

VIENNA (R) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, speaking during a meeting with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, has called for a halt to fighting in the Gulf war, the Agence France Press reported. The official Romanian agency said in Thursday's meeting Mr. Ceausescu stressed his country's position that Iran and Iraq must withdraw to within their own borders and seek negotiations to settle the three-and-a-half year conflict.

Karamanlis ends visit to Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Greek President Constantine Karamanlis left for home Friday following a five-day official visit. Just before departing, Mr. Karamanlis conferred privately for more than an hour with President Hosni Mubarak in the third and final round of talks since the Greek leader arrived last Monday. Egyptian officials said the talks covered Middle East problems, security in the Mediterranean and bilateral relations.

U.S. can no longer be a mediator in Middle East, Hussein asserts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The United States has lost its credibility as a mediator in the Middle East and Jordan now realises that principles mean nothing to Washington, His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday.

In a wide-ranging interview with the New York Times, the King pointed out that the U.S., by its unlimited support for Israel, does not qualify any more as a honest mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The King expressed concern over the United States' "double standard everywhere." He said: "The saddest point for me is that I've always believed values and courageous principles were an area that we shared. I now realise that principles mean nothing to the United States. Short-term issues, especially in election years,

prevail." Commenting on U.S. congressional efforts to link a planned supply of \$220 million worth of military equipment to Jordan to a "Jordanian rapid deployment force," the King said the attempts were insulting and Jordan would not tolerate such moves. If the U.S. Congress rejects the administration's military assistance plan, Jordan reserves the right to get weapons from "anywhere and anyone else in the world," he said. He described U.S. moves to transfer its embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as "one more slap" at

Jordan and "the last straw that breaks the camel's back."

The United States has no right, the King said, to object to the presence of the Soviet Union at any Middle East peace negotiations. At the same time, he pointed out, neither superpower is in a position to act as a honest mediator in peace efforts because the United States is linked with Israel the Soviet Union also is closely allied with some Arab states.

The King suggested that the involvement of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council could strengthen efforts to solve the Middle East conflict. U.S. credibility suffered in Lebanon, the King said, because of Washington's sponsorship of the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal pact which the Beirut government abrogated earlier this month. The King described the pact as "a peace treaty in everything other than in name."



Jordan would continue talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on joint political moves, King Hussein said. "The Jordanians and the Palestinians are one team. And we will work together on all fronts." The King commented that while the United States protests veh-

emently against what it sees as restriction of Soviet Jews' movement, especially to Israel, it does not speak up for the Palestinians living under occupation.

He said: "The whole world is up in arms that they (Soviet Jews) do not have the right to move, to Israel in particular. Well, they are Soviet citizens and part of the state. The United States has protested vigorously. But the people who are not Israeli, who are under occupation, should they not be permitted to voice an opinion about anything, about what should happen to them? And remember, they are Jordanian citizens, or those for whom Egypt is responsible."

Following are excerpts from the King's interview with the New York Times: King: The whole situation is hopeless because it just appears more clearly than ever before that the United States has forsaken its pos-

ition as a superpower and as a moral defender of the world. It has forsaken its position as a nation that stands by its word and its commitments. It has chosen to disqualify itself as the sole force in the area that could help us all move towards a just and durable peace. The U.S. is not free to move except within the limits of what AIPAC, the Zionists and the state of Israel determine for it.

Q: Was it the American withdrawal from Lebanon that persuaded you that the U.S. was no longer reliable as an honest broker?

A: It is a series of events. Lebanon is part of that series. What it has cost the United States is its credibility. There have been a series of factors in the past, since 1956, really.

But if you consider the recent past, first, the president's initiative of Sept. 1: it was destroyed, as was U.S. credibility, by Israel's rejection of it. This was followed by Israel's settlement activity, which was intensified and which was a direct answer to the president's initiative. This was followed by the Lebanese situation, in which they continued, and still continue to be the occupiers of Lebanese territory. This was followed more recently by their attempts to implement a plan to reallocate people in the occupied territories to the Jordan Valley in what appears to be a final step towards pushing them across the river, consistent with their claim that the Palestinian problem is a problem of people, not the land. In addition, there is a plan to implement Israeli land laws on the rest of the occupied territories.

Palestinian rights

Through all of this and for the last 17 years, Israel has denied (Continued on page 3)

Gemayel voices optimism over national reconciliation

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel said Friday his resignation would solve his country's political problems and voiced hopes of a settlement at national reconciliation talks here.

In a Swiss Television interview, he said that if Lebanon's problems were caused by personalities, he would be ready to step down, as some opposition leaders have demanded. But the problems were institutional, not personal, he said. "It is not a question of persons," Mr. Gemayel said when asked if he would resign. "If the problem were a personal problem, I am ready. But it is not a question of whether I am there or not. It is a matter of principles and institutions."

With formal peace talks adjourned until Saturday, aides of eight rival Muslim and Christian factional leaders worked in two committees to negotiate a framework of reforms to Lebanon's 40-year-old political system.

What we need today is to rehabilitate our institutions, to adapt them to international circumstances so that Lebanon can play its indispensable role for peace in the Middle East," Mr. Gemayel said.

"There will be no peace in the Middle East until peace is restored in Lebanon," he said. Mr. Gemayel said the conference, at which Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam is working as mediator, was trying to reach "a new historic compromise."

Diplomatic sources said the Lebanese government and conference factions had promised to try to find out who kidnapped American diplomat William Buckley in Beirut early Friday.

Militia sources in the Lebanese capital said Mr. Buckley, a political officer at the U.S. embassy, was driven south out of the city.

The kidnapping and fresh gunfire in Beirut Thursday night came as rival factions here were seeking a permanent solution to end Lebanon's decade-old factional warfare, with consolidation of a ceasefire in force since Tuesday night vital for success.

Conference sources said the two committees had agreed on measures to shore up the truce, including deployment of internal security forces with the support of 2,000 conscripts.

Beirut U.S. diplomat kidnapped

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunmen kidnapped an American diplomat outside his home in militia controlled west Beirut Friday, forcing him into a car which Reuters quoted militia sources as saying, had later driven south out of the capital.

Neighbours said the diplomat, political officer William Buckley, had just left his apartment building for work at the nearby U.S. embassy when he was ambushed by gunmen who pushed him into a car.

The mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), whose militia controls that area of west Beirut, said it had been asked by the

embassy to help to find Mr. Buckley and had ordered its men to search for the car.

PSP sources said the embassy told them the car had last been spotted at a road junction in Khade, 10 kilometres south of central Beirut, heading down the main coastal highway.

There was no immediate indication who was behind the kidnapping, the latest in a long series of attacks on U.S. targets in Beirut. Previous actions have included devastating suicide bombings for which a mysterious group, "Islamic Jihad", claimed responsibility.

Rival militiamen traded sustained barrages of mortars and rocket-propelled grenades in downtown Beirut early Friday in the gravest violation of Lebanon's three-day-old ceasefire, the Associated Press said.

Police said two people were wounded in the fighting that broke out shortly before midnight and persisted into the early morning hours at the war-ravaged commercial district straddling Beirut's closed port.

The sound of crashing shells and gunfire was heard in both mainly Muslim eastern and mostly Christian western sectors of the Lebanese capital and rival militias

(Continued on page 3)

Israelis said to be considering troop pullback closer to border

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is considering pulling its troops in Lebanon back to a new "defence line" south of the port city of Sidon and about 22 kilometres closer to its border, a military source said Friday.

The source, who spoke on condition he not be identified, was reacting to reports by Israel Radio that such a pullback seemed one of Israel's most viable choices for cutting casualties and the costs of maintaining an army in Lebanon and preventing attacks against its northern border settlements.

After Lebanon's March 5 abrogation of the Lebanon-Israel pact, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government signalled it was ready to redeploy its forces in Lebanon, but since then there has been no hint as to the timing.

In addition, a decision on where to draw the line new line has been postponed as Israel officials appear to wait for the outcome of the Syrian-mediated Lebanese reconciliation talks in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Israel has refused to negotiate a new accord to replace the one abrogated by the Beirut government, but there have been growing indications that Israel has not ruled out the possibility of seeking different "security" arrangements if a stronger Lebanese government emerged from the Lausanne conference.

A government official who spoke on condition he not be named said earlier this week that Israel was hoping a "strong viable central" Lebanese government resulted from the Lausanne talks. He said it was "one of the prerequisites" for Israeli "security" from attacks from Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the army has been drawing up plans to pull back from its front line at the Awali River north of Sidon, 56 kilometres north of the border. Sidon, the provincial capital of South Lebanon with a population of 250,000, has been a focal point for attacks against Israeli troops.

One of the redeployment plans given prominence in Israeli news

media reports would bring Israeli troops midway between the Zahran River just south of Sidon and the Litani, where U.N. forces are deployed. The new line would put Israel's army at within about 34 kilometres of the Israeli border.

The source declined to elaborate on the plan or say whether it was the army's favourite alternative. He said that if Israel staged a pullback it would "not necessarily be a fixed line it could be another method."

He said Israel was likely to establish a "flexible" front line — unlike the Awali fortifications — that would be beefed up by local militias. The army would patrol north of the line, he said.

The plan would keep Israeli troops in the coastal town of Tyre and inland in the towns of Nabatieh and it would not include a pullback of troops in eastern Lebanon, where Israeli troops face Syrian forces, he said.

Israelis damage ancient temple in Tyre, page 2

Queen: U.S. visit aimed at boosting cultural ties

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor said here Thursday that her current visit to the United States was mainly aimed at achieving a greater measure of cultural understanding between Jordanian and American people and to explain the current affairs in the Middle East region.

In an interview with the U.S. television network ABC, the Queen said she intends to underline the importance for the establishment of a just and durable Middle East settlement and an honourable solution to the Palestinian problem.

She called on the U.S. administration to extend all possible assistance to help the Palestinians regain their rights in their homeland.

Referring to the role of Jordanian women, Queen Noor said that they enjoy equal political and social rights with men in the country. Ten years ago, working women formed only five per cent of the total women population in the country but this has grown to 20 per cent at present, and nearly half of the number of university students in Jordan are female, the Queen said.

3 killed as unidentified plane bombs Khartoum outskirts

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — An aircraft of unidentified origin dropped five bombs around Sudan's official Omdurman Radio on the outskirts of Khartoum Friday, killing at least three people and injuring a number of others, the Sudanese high command said.

A command communiqué, carried by the official Sudanese News Agency (SUNA), said the aircraft came from the southwest towards the Nile River at 11.30 a.m. (0930 GMT), dropped five bombs and then flew off towards the northwest.

It said one of the bombs hit an administration building of Omdurman Radio, while other bombs fell on two nearby houses.

The communiqué said the Sudanese armed forces were put on full alert to repel any further attacks.

A Reuters correspondent visited the site of the raid and eyewitnesses said two people were killed when one of the bombs fell on a house near the radio. The third person died later.

Egypt's official Middle East News Agency (MENA), in a report from Khartoum, quoted the communiqué as identifying the aircraft as a Soviet-made Tupolev TU-22.

Sudan's President Jaafar Numeiri was reported to have gone to inspect the scene of the bombing. Sudan has accused both Libya

and Ethiopia of supporting secessionists in southern Sudan, where the rebels in recent week have attacked, kidnapped and killed foreign workers on major oil and irrigation projects.

Addis Ababa accuses Khartoum in turn of supporting secessionists in Ethiopia's Red Sea province of Eritrea.

There was no word on other military action against the government Friday, but MENA quoted a military communiqué as saying "all air and land forces in Sudan have been put on alert to repel any attack."

"Sudanese air space has been secured against any possible aggression," the communiqué said.

There was also no word on where the plane had come from. The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies does not list the TU-22 in Sudan's military arsenal.

Sudan, in northeastern Africa, borders Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya and Chad. It has a largely Muslim Arab population in the north and Christian and animist population in the south.

The government faces a growing rebellion among southern tribes, which has stepped up since it imposed Islamic law nationwide last September.

Southern rebels have staged attacks on government troops, shelled the provincial capital Mal-

akal and raided foreign oil and construction projects, kidnapping several foreign workers.

Rebel spokesman accuse Mr. Numeiri among other things of violating terms of the March 1972 agreement which ended a 17-year rebellion in the south by reorganising southern administrative districts, thereby reducing the political power of some southern tribes.

Rebels also claim the northern-dominated central government has not given attention to economic development of the impoverished southern regions.

In February 1983, Mr. Numeiri accused Libya of plotting with Sudanese dissidents to overthrow his government with the help of Libyan air and ground units stationed at the Kufra oasis in southeastern Libya.

The Sudanese claimed they had foiled a plan whereby Libyan planes were to have bombed targets in Khartoum and ferried in Libyan army troops to seize key installations to support Sudanese dissidents.

Western military sources in Cairo said later that a Libyan TU-22 had been tracked over Sudanese air space in February 1983. But the plane veered from its course and swung south of Khartoum before returning back to Libyan territory.

Afro-Arab conference urges Gulf peace

TUNIS (Agencies) — Parliamentarians from 24 African and Arab states, in addition to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), ended a three-day conference Thursday with a call for putting a halt to the fighting between Iran and Iraq and solving their disputes by peaceful means.

Concerning the Palestinian issue, the conference affirmed that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Middle East dispute and that peace and stability in the area can not be found unless the Palestinian people are given their right to self-determination under the leadership of the PLO.

The parliamentarians condemned the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon and voiced their support for the efforts exerted for maintaining the unity and independence of Lebanon.

A statement issued at the end of the conference called for increased economic co-operation, including the establishment of an Afro-Arab common market, and a better flow of investment capital between the Arab World and Africa.

The parliamentarians also called for the establishment of an

Afro-Arab organisation for securing investment and encouraging bilateral economic relations with a view to cementing Afro-Arab economic integration.

The conference also called for the establishment of an Afro-Arab university for science and technology.

Jordan was represented at the conference by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed, Upper House of Parliament member Walid Salah and Lower House members Khaled Al Haj Hassan and Ribbi Mustafa.

Disarmament meeting concludes session

STOCKHOLM (R) — The European disarmament conference ended its first session Friday with the Soviet Union contending that North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) proposals for reducing the risk of war in Europe were concerned too much with secondary matters.

After nine weeks of formal meetings, the 35-country conference goes into a two-month recess having made little visible progress. Most delegates, however, insisted that initial contacts had been useful.

The conference, which began in January, has been stalled by disagreements between East and

West as to what they should actually be talking about.

Western countries see its aim as the negotiation of binding, concrete and verifiable measures to reduce the risk of war.

NATO tabled a six-point plan in January with specific proposals involving more stringent requirements on advance notification of manoeuvres and inspection of military exercises.

Soviet delegate Oleg Grinevsky said Friday NATO was concentrating on "secondary military-technical questions."

"On the whole, the NATO proposals are of extremely one-sided nature, contain patently una-

acceptable provisions and therefore are clearly not designed for reaching an agreement," Mr. Grinevsky said.

He repeated the Warsaw Pact's demand that the conference should negotiate a non-aggression pact and a treaty renouncing first use of nuclear weapons.

"If the conference reached agreement on these initiatives, that would... create a favourable political climate for solving other problems, particularly in the field of arms limitation and reduction," Mr. Grinevsky added.

European troop reduction talks resume in Vienna, page 8

Glenn quits race for presidency

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Space hero John Glenn Friday bowed out of the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, saying he realised he had no chance of winning.

The Ohio senator's withdrawal on the eve of a major round of party voting left the field for the Democratic nomination to former Vice-President Walter Mondale, Colorado Senator Gary Hart and black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

Mr. Glenn made the withdrawal after a disappointing campaign in which he seemed to be a strong challenger for the nomination, but failed to excite the voters.

His best showing in the early primaries and caucuses was second place in the Alabama primary last Tuesday. But by then he was too far in debt and too far behind Sen. Hart and Mr. Mondale to continue.

The 62-year-old former astronaut, who had been rated Mr. Mondale's top challenger when he declared his candidacy last April, announced at a press conference that he was "reluctantly bowing out."

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Lebanese leaders seek release of detainees

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Leaders of Lebanon's rival factions agreed to order the release of all kidnap victims and prisoners of rival militias at a stormy round of peace talks Thursday.

President Amin Gemayel and the eight factional leaders meeting in this Swiss city agreed that all individuals kidnapped or held against their will should be freed, an official spokesman said.

Trials for those arrested on national security charges would be speeded up, the spokesman said. Former President Suleiman Franjeh, a Maronite Christian leader opposed to Mr. Gemayel, stormed out of the session in a row over treatment of Christians who had "collaborated with Israel", a spokesman for his delegation said.

He demanded that they be treated as traitors and called for a conference vote on whether Israel, whose troops occupy southern Lebanon, was an enemy or a friend of Lebanon.

It was not clear how the dispute arose. Mr. Franjeh's spokesman said two other Christian leaders, Pierre Gemayel and Camille Chamoun, had "claimed the rights" of collaborators.

He said Mr. Franjeh considered Israel an enemy and saw the issue as fundamental.

Officials said there was no vote on Israel's status and all participants were unanimous about Lebanon's membership of the Arab World. But the issue could come up if the conference discusses the question of foreign troop withdrawals, an agenda item for its next session on Saturday.

Mr. Franjeh returned to the conference after President Gemayel went to fetch him from his hotel room and discussed the issue with him.

The conference ordered the security commission set up in Beirut under a ceasefire accord which went into force on Tuesday night to oversee the release of detainees as a further measure to reduce friction between rival militias.

It adjourned until Saturday to mark Friday's seventh anniversary of the assassination of Kamal Junblatt, father of Druze leader Walid Junblatt, who is one of the participants.

Senior representatives of Mr. Gemayel's government and leaders of the Maronite Christians and Sunni, Shi'ite Muslims and Druze will continue backstage talks on a draft working paper on political reforms for Saturday's session.

Mr. Gemayel, continuing a series of private talks to reconcile rival positions, held his first meeting here with one of his most intransigent foes, Shi'ite Amal Militia Chief Nabih Berri. He also had a second meeting with Mr. Junblatt.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, who is mediating between the rival Lebanese groups, was also present.

The spokesman said a lot of progress had been made on individual items.

The framework of political changes which the conference will consider on Saturday was not clear after four days of talks. Another issue still on the bargaining table is formation of a national unity government to implement any agreed reforms.

2 bombs defused in Ramallah schools

AMMAN (Petra) — Two bombs planted by Jewish terrorists were discovered and defused in two schools for boys in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, a Palestinian source was quoted as saying.

The source added that the first bomb was discovered in a secondary school while the second was discovered in an elementary school.

According to the source, Arab students in Ramallah, staged a strike in protest against these criminal attacks which are directed against Arab educational institutions in the occupied Arab territories.

The incident comes within an escalating campaign by the Jewish extremists for spreading terror in the educational institutions.

Israel's Labour ahead of Likud, poll says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A majority of the Israeli electorate would support the opposition Labour Party over the ruling rightist Likud if a general election were held now, according to a public opinion poll published Friday.

The poll, reported in the Ha'aretz newspaper, gave Labour 46.8 per cent of the votes compared to the Likud's 25.8 per cent.

The results indicated that the Likud was making something of a comeback. Its popularity slumped to its lowest level in years last December when a similar poll gave Labour a lead of 27 per cent.

Labour is considering proposing a motion in parliament next week to call early elections but political analysts said the initiative had little chance of success.

The ethnic Tami Party, a partner in the Likud-led coalition, Thursday decided not to support early elections and other religious parties, which hold the balance of power in the 120-seat assembly, are also against the idea.

The government's term of office is due to run out in November 1985.

A majority of Israelis are willing to give up all or part of the occupied West Bank as part of a peace agreement with Jordan, according to the poll.

The poll showed that a total of 59.1 per cent of the Israelis asked were willing to give up all or part of the territory, while 36.9 per cent would not give up any part.

The poll said the largest group among the "doves" was the 36.3 per cent who would make "some compromises," that 18.5 per cent would be ready to give up all of the West Bank, but no part of Arab Jerusalem, and 4.3 per cent would also give up Arab Jerusalem.

Israel captured Arab Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 war.

U.N. seeks to revive M.E. conference

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar disclosed Thursday he is continuing consultations on a possible Middle East peace conference despite Washington's rejection of such a gathering as "ill-considered and harmful".

He was submitting a written report on his efforts to implement a General Assembly resolution last December recommending the convening of a conference with the participation of the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.).

He said he sent letters to potential participants last week to "ascertain their views on all issues relevant to the organisation and convening of the proposed conference, including the question of identification of participants."

The letters went to all 15 Security Council members, which include Egypt, as well as to Israel and all its other immediate Arab neighbours — Jordan, Lebanon and Syria — and to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The secretary general said they were asked to reply by April 30, when he would consider how best to proceed.

In a letter last January U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick said a Middle East peace conference in the form proposed by the General Assembly would "predictably become a forum for propagandistic and extreme positions" and would probably yield a one-sided outcome unacceptable to one or more of the parties.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), has accused Syria of backing rebels within his Fatah commando group who succeeded in evicting his supporters from Lebanon last December.

CAIRO (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was Thursday quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union were engaged in "quiet mediation" to improve relations between himself and Syria.

The Middle East News Agency (MENA) said he made the statement in an interview with the Paris-based Arabic language magazine Al Watan Al Arabi (Arab Homeland).

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), has accused Syria of backing rebels within his Fatah commando group who succeeded in evicting his supporters from Lebanon last December.

Mr. Arafat urged the Lebanese reconciliation conference, meeting in Lausanne, to help 500,000 Palestinians in Lebanon enjoy a better life, the magazine said.

The P.L.O. chief spoke of what the magazine termed his plan to "salvage the present Arab situation", including an end to the Gulf war, the convening of an

S. Arabia, Soviets mediate between Arafat, Syria

SYRIA denied the charge and accused Mr. Arafat of going soft on the Palestinian armed struggle.

According to the magazine, Mr. Arafat supported the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal agreement "provided there are no attempts to reinstate it under such pretexts as border security measures."

Mr. Arafat urged the Lebanese reconciliation conference, meeting in Lausanne, to help 500,000 Palestinians in Lebanon enjoy a better life, the magazine said.

The P.L.O. chief spoke of what the magazine termed his plan to "salvage the present Arab situation", including an end to the Gulf war, the convening of an

Arabs summit meeting to tackle inter-Arab differences, and Egypt's return to the Arab fold.

All Arab countries, except Sudan, Oman and Somalia, have boycotted Egypt and suspended its Arab League membership since its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

But following its recent return to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), moderates have been pressing for Cairo's re-admission to the League.

A unified stand to face challenges could not be achieved with Egypt's absence from the Arab fold, Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying.

Iraqi Air Force playing major role in Gulf war

By Michael Sheridan

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Air Force appears to have stepped up its role in the Gulf war, exploiting its superiority in the skies above the battlefields with sustained air strikes against Iranian troops.

Foreign military analysts in Baghdad say concentrated strikes by Iraqi jet fighters and helicopter gunships have become standard tactics to try to decimate Iranian forces grouping for mass attacks in the latest offensive around Iraq's southern port of Basra.

On one day alone last week, according to Iraqi military communications, Baghdad's jet fighters flew 129 combat sorties against Iranian troop concentrations while helicopter gunships mounted 88 missions to strike at enemy troops. As usual, no Iraqi losses were reported.

The communiques described the jet operations as "intensive raids" which caused large numbers of enemy casualties and were a significant blow to Iran's ability to mass forces for "human wave" attacks intended to detonate minefields and overrun Iraqi positions.

According to military analysts interviewed here, the air war is one arena in which Baghdad enjoys clear superiority over its foe in the stalemate of the three-and-a-half-year-old conflict.

The analysts estimate current Iraqi combat strength at between 210 and 235 aircraft against an

estimated Iranian strength of between 70 and 115 aircraft worthy planes.

These figures, although vague because of secrecy imposed by both sides, appear to fit the available evidence.

Iraqi Air Force relies chiefly on Soviet-made fighters and ground attack aircraft as well as a number of French warplanes. Both the Soviet Union and France have not hesitated to make good Baghdad's early losses in the air war.

By contrast, Iran is equipped with U.S. aircraft acquired in a spending spree under the late Shah, for which no replacements are forthcoming. Spares can be found only laboriously on the international arms market.

The Iraqi Air Force is manned by mainly Soviet-trained pilots

together with crew trained on French Dassault Mirage and newly-supplied Super-Étendard aircraft.

The military analysts said the rigid pattern of Soviet-style air training had sometimes worked against Iraqi pilots in fast-changing combat conditions and was believed to discourage innovation and individual decision-making.

However, this was offset by the lack of qualified pilots in Iran, they said.

One analyst described it as "a little short of miraculous" that the Iraqis had kept so many of their aircraft flying.

Iraqi Air Force is based firmly on the Soviet model. According to statistics published by the London-based Institute for Strategic Studies it is built around squadrons of the standard Warsaw Pact MiG-21 (NATO code name Fishbed), the MiG-23 (Flogger) and the MiG-25 (Foxbat).

All three are workhorses in the air forces of the Soviet Union, its allies and arms customers.

Iraq also operates the Sukhoi Su-20 ground attack fighter.

It has some 60 Dassault Mirage jets, according to the military analysts. In a controversial move, France recently supplied five Super-Étendard jets capable of carrying Exocet missiles which could strike at oil targets in the Gulf.

Military transports operated by Baghdad include giant four-engined Soviet-manufactured Ilyushin Il-76 jets modelled on the U.S. C-141 Starlifter. Such planes are also in service with the air forces of Libya and Syria.

According to Iraqi military communications, helicopter gunships are playing a major role in strikes on Iranian troop concentrations in the marshy areas around the man-made oil-producing Majnoon Island.

The helicopters include Soviet-made Mi-4, Mi-6, Mi-8 and Mi-24 models. Their gunship variants have been used to blast amphibious forces and harass supply lines and have even reportedly shot down Iranian U.S.-made Chinook helicopters.

Diplomats said the Iraqi Air Force had also taken delivery of up to 250 American-made manufactured light helicopters from the Hughes Aircraft Corporation.

The helicopters, models Hughes 300-D and 500-D, are designed for agricultural work but could also be used for military purposes such as artillery spotting, they said.

The 500-D is also available in a version carrying machine gun pods but the diplomats said the U.S. had not made this available to Iraq.

Nonetheless, the diplomats said, the helicopter deal reflected improved relations between the U.S. and Iraq and Washington's belief that a Gulf war victory for Tehran would not serve U.S. interests.

Danish queen to visit S. Arabia

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Queen Margrethe of Denmark, on her first official visit to an Arab state, is scheduled to arrive in Saudi Arabia March 17, it was announced Friday.

The queen, accompanied by her husband, Prince Henrik and a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, will fly to Jeddah Saturday.

The queen is scheduled to travel on Sunday to Dhahran on the east coast, where King Fahd has been visiting since March 4.

During a two-day stay in the eastern region, the Danish monarch is scheduled to meet with the Saudi monarch and tour Jubail industrial city further north on the Arabian Gulf coast.

Danish Foreign Minister Mr. Ellemann-Jensen is expected to hold talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal, including discussions on the general Mideast situation, the Iran-Iraq war and a "few bilateral questions," said Denmark's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Franz Howitz in a local newspaper report.

Trade will also figure prominently in the talks. The kingdom is the third largest importer of Danish goods outside Europe.

Israelis damage ancient temple in Tyre

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Israeli bulldozers excavating for defence works have uncovered and damaged a small Greco-Roman temple on the outskirts of the ancient south Lebanese town of Tyre, Antiquities Department officials said.

The bulldozers, working inside the archaeological precinct at Bass about a month ago, knocked two metres of masonry and columns off the top of the temple before work was halted, they said.

The site adjoins the Israeli headquarters building blown up by a suicide bomber last Nov. 4 and was closed to the public from the time of the bombing until February.

In the interval bulldozers and mechanical scoops removed hundreds of tons of sand from the area, taking with them pieces of ancient walls and tombs and thousands of broken pieces of Greek and Roman pottery, the officials said.

The earth ramparts outside Israeli bases along the main coast road are now sudded with the broken necks and handles of tyne amphorae and water-jugs.

The officials, who were supervising excavation work at the newly-discovered temple, said that despite an intervention by local politicians and by the International Red Cross the Israelis were still digging sand from the edge of the site.

Red Cross officials in the town said they complained to the Israeli authorities after the bulldozers cut a second dirt track through the archaeological precinct on March 5.

The temple itself measures about five metres by three and the outer walls are decorated with what appear to be garlands and goddesses painted in red and blue.

The antiquities officials, who asked not to be named, said the temple was previously unknown because the department had not yet had time to excavate that part of the Necropolis. It was too early to say who it was dedicated to.

When the Israeli bulldozers arrived, the temple area was fenced off and marked with internationally recognised "cultural heritage" signs in English, French and Arabic.

The department has moved nine sections of broken column from the temple superstructure to a nearby workshop for repairs. Some of the broken masonry has also been recovered but a complete restoration may not be possible, the officials said.

Israelis prime minister calls for more Jewish settlements

EILAT (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday urged Israelis "to create facts" by building more Jewish settlements throughout the land of Israel.

"If Israel wants to be strong and rooted in its soil, it must create facts," he said at a ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of the creation of Eilat, the Red Sea port built on what was formerly known by the Arab name of Um Rashrash.

With the original hand-painted flag raised in Eilat by Israeli forces in 1949 blowing in the wind, Shamir said Jews had an inalienable right to all the land of Israel.

The prime minister has frequently made clear his support for establishing Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, captured from Jordan in 1967, the Gaza Strip and in the former Syrian territory on the Golan Heights.

Mr. Shamir told reporters after the ceremony that nobody had said a word about whether Eilat belonged to Israel. "But in the 1950s there were diplomats who questioned it. I see this as an example for the future."

Just south of Eilat, Israel has built a luxury hotel on the coastal strip of Taba, claimed by Egypt as part of the Sinai.

Cairo says it should have been returned to Egypt under the Camp David peace treaty.

Mr. Shamir declined to say whether he considered Taba a successful creation of facts.

Earlier, he had toured projects in the stark desert region known as the Arava and voiced support for continued settlement building there.

At Kibbutz Yotvata he was met by 35 demonstrators calling for an end to settlements in the occupied territories and more aid to the region.

Mr. Shamir told the settlers "we must fill all the land of Israel with Jews. All Jews must come here. There is no greater goal."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
MAIN CHANNEL	
17:30	Koran
17:40	Cartoon
18:00	Children Programme
18:30	The Family
19:00	Programme Review
19:30	Local Programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:00	Local Programme
21:30	Arabic Play
22:00	News in Arabic
22:30	Play Continued
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	Concert, Roust Service Eps. 4
20:55	Portrait of Power: Konrad Adenauer
21:00	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:15	Feature Film: I Wanna Hold Your Hand
RADIO JORDAN	
833 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Morning Show
11:00	News Summary
11:30	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Jordan Music
14:30	Music
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Instrumentals
16:50	Old Favourites
17:00	Special Feature
17:30	Music
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Top Twenty
19:00	News Summary
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Good Old Days
20:30	Just a Minute
21:00	News Summary
21:30	Country Music
22:00	News Summary
22:30	Play of the Week
23:00	News Summary
23:30	Classical Concert
24:00	News Headline

BBC WORLD SERVICE

BBC WORLD SERVICE	
639, 720, 1413 KHz	
06:00	News
06:30	Let There be Drums
06:45	Financial News
07:00	World News
07:15	World News
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24:00	World News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"Photos" by Saucer Tabben at the Alfa Art Gallery at 5:00 p.m.

North Korean photographic and book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

"American Architecture: Innovation & Tradition" starts at 10:00 a.m. at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Jordan.

FILM

"Festival du Film Policier" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
American Centre - 44371
British Council - 41520
French Cultural Centre - 36147-8
Goethe Institute - 37009
Soviet Cultural Centre - 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre - 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777
Hayat Arts Centre - 665195
Husseini Youth City - 667181
Y.W.C.A. - 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. - 664251
Amman Municipal Library - 36111
University of Jordan Library - 843555

MUSEUMS

Polio Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qai'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: A main collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists and a collection of paintings by 19th Century oriental artists. Mount Zuhair, Jabal Leventeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eleven die in road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Eleven people were killed and 113 injured as a result of 160 road accidents which occurred all over the country during last week.

Censor bans Beirut-printed book

AMMAN (Petra) — The press censor has banned the entry and circulation of a book entitled "Views on Strategic War and Leadership Action", by Akram Dairi. The censor has confiscated all copies of the Beirut-printed book due to the detrimental nature of its contents, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

Girl guides convention planned

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab conference on the work of girl guides will open in Amman on March 25. The five-day conference is designed to amend the Arab Guides Council bye-laws and to review resolutions taken at a previous guides conference held in Libya in 1981. The Youth Welfare Organisation in Amman has prepared a special programme for the 11 Arab delegations to tour Jordanian economic and tourist centres and to examine the work and activities of the scout and guide movements in Jordan.

'Military medicine' conference ends

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The 25th international conference on "military medicine" was concluded here Thursday. Participants in the five-day conference discussed more than 100 research papers dealing with injuries sustained in battle especially those affecting the spinal column. Also discussed during the conference were modern trends in dealing with tuberculosis and the effect of chemical weapons on troops. Delegations representing 44 countries, among which was Jordan, took part in the conference.

JDA to attend Arab dentists talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) will take part in the next session of the permanent bureau meetings of the Arab Dentists Federation scheduled to open in Algiers on March 20. President of the association, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad, said that the meeting will discuss the conditions under which dentists work in the Arab countries as well as in the development of dental care. A four-member delegation will represent the JDA at the meeting.

Audit bureau chief leaves for meeting

TUNIS (Petra) — Director of the Audit Bureau, Dr. Hashem Al Dabbas, arrived here Thursday to represent Jordan at a pan-Arab meeting representing all audit department heads in the Arab World. During the three-day meeting, which starts Tuesday, several reports connected with training and research in the audit and accountancy fields in Arab countries will be discussed.

Stamp exhibition slated by society

AMMAN (Petra) — The stamp collectors club here is to organise an exhibition of Jordanian and British stamps at the British Council to run from March 24 until April 5 under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Alia. The club aims to strengthen ties and to facilitate exchanges between stamp collectors both within Jordan and internationally in the cultural and social fields through the holding of seminars and exhibitions as well as promoting co-operation with similar Arab clubs and societies.



Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud (head of table) Thursday briefs members of the General Affairs Committee of the Western

Europe Union Assembly on the dangers of the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories (Petra photo)

President Li thanks King, Jordanian people

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has received a letter of gratitude from Chinese President Li Xianlan on completion of his recent visit to Jordan. The full text of the correspondence is as follows:

As I am leaving your beautiful country upon the successful conclusion of my visit here, I have the honour, on behalf of my wife and my colleagues as well as in my name, to express our deep thanks to Your Majesty the King and the Queen and the government and people of Jordan for the warm and cordial reception accorded us.

During this visit, we have experienced the profound friendship of the Jordanian people towards the Chinese people.

My wife and I are deeply

convinced that under the personal care of Your Majesty, the friendly relations and co-operation between China and Jordan, based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence, will certainly be further developed and grow stronger. May the friendship between the peoples of China and Jordan continue to develop. May your Kingdom enjoy prosperity and your people happiness. May Your Majesty enjoy good health.

Prince Ra'd opens new headquarters for blind

AMMAN (Petra) — Honorary President of the Friends of the Blind Society and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Friday inaugurated the new headquarters of the society here in Jabal Amman.

Prince Ra'd, in his speech, expressed his pride in the achievement for the Jordanian blind which was started upon the directive of His Majesty King Hussein.

He also reviewed the society's progress in the field of finding employment, providing financial and technical aid as well as housing and education for the blind. He also reviewed the activities of the society in campaigning for the exemption of the blind from medical treatment fees and insurance.

Among those attending the inauguration ceremony was Minister of Youth, Culture and Antiquities

Senate amends procedural legislation

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate), presided over by Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Thursday amended parliament's procedural laws after making slight modifications to them in a session attended by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat and cabinet members.

The amended laws cover the convening and opening of regular parliamentary sessions, organising the parliament's business, committees, the committee referral procedure and various details of protocol.

The parliament discussed the relationship between the Upper House and Lower Houses questions relating to the immunity, resignations and suspension of members and the maintaining of order in the parliament.

Reasons for amending the law stem from the fact that the current law is not capable of handling all the various contingencies that arise.

The modifications to the constitution upon the restoration of the parliament also necessitated the amendment of other parliament laws.

The amended law, which was recited by the moderator of the Legal Committee Ahmad Al Tarawach, is now in effect.

Participating in the discussions at the session were Mr. 'Obeidat and members of the senate: Bahjat Al Talhouni, Abdul Mun'am Al Rifai, Zeid Al Rifai, Mudar Badran, Wafiq Mirsa, Ahmad Al Tarawach, Abdul Rahman Khalifeh, Thougani Al Hindawi, Imma'a Hammad, Hayel Srouf, Habis Al Majali and Mohammad Odeh Al Qar'an.

American architecture exhibition opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — American architecture is the subject of a special exhibition which will open at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering Saturday.

Entitled "American Architecture: Innovation and Tradition," the exhibition looks at rural, small town and urban architecture in six regions of the United States.

It explores the sources of the architecture of each region and the influences that shaped them.

The exhibition focuses on American architectural innovations such as the iron and steel frame which made the skyscraper possible.

The display, created by Columbia University together with the American Institute of Architects, is being brought to Jordan by the United States embassy in Amman.

Viewers of the display will be issued with portable cassette recorders equipped with earphones and tapes that explain the exhibits in Arabic.

On Monday, March 19 at 3:30 p.m., there will be a panel discussion related to the exhibition at the Faculty of Engineering.

Panelists will be Ralph Montgomery of Jafar Toukan and Partners, Dr. Taleb Rifai of the University of Jordan, Dr. Laila Bustani of Yarmouk University, Farid Habib of Habib and Associates and Farouk Yaghmour, the architectural representative of the Engineering Syndicate.

The exhibition will remain at the University of Jordan between March 17-22.

It will then open at Yarmouk University March 25 and will remain there until March 28.

Shawkat Mahmoud condemns Ben Porat Plan

Minister briefs Euro MPs on Israeli settlement policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud Thursday met the delegation representing the General Affairs Committee of the Western Europe Union Assembly and explained to them the dangers of the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories and the recent developments concerning the formation of a special army from among settlers there.

The minister also explained to the delegation members the details and consequences of the Ben Porat Plan for the resettlement of Palestinian refugees in the Jordan Valley area as a first step to their expulsion from the West Bank.

The Israeli plan, said Mr. Mahmoud, is aimed at achieving political goals. The removal of the refugee camps, he continued is an attempt to obliterate the symbol of the existence of the Palestinian problem and the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Mahmoud also informed the delegation members of the Israeli plans to apply Israeli law to the occupied West Bank in terms of land rather than population.

The minister also indicated that Arab citizens have been subjected to Israeli martial law since the year 1967.

Earlier Thursday, the delegation visited the south Jordan Valley and listened to a briefing by Jordan Valley officials about the projects being carried out by the JVA and the role the Jordan Valley will play in the country's economy.

When completed, it is hoped that they will result in the expansion of agricultural land available.

On Wednesday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred with the delegation and reviewed with them developments in the Middle East, Israel's expansionist policies and the eviction of Arab inhabitants from their land.

The team earlier met the president of the University of Jordan, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, who submitted a briefing on the country's educational programmes and on the adverse effects of education in the occupied Arab territories as a result of Israel's malpractices and attempts to alter the Arab educational curricula.

Later the delegation visited the Marka refugee camp on the outskirts of Amman and met its residents, where they were briefed on the living conditions in the camp by officials of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday met the chairman and members of the visiting delegation and outlined the important role Europe can play in putting an end to the tragedy of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Water Authority of Jordan Director-General Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani (fourth from right at table) signs one of the seven contracts with representatives

of local companies to install 240 kilometres of sewer network (Petra photo)

WAJ awards JD 5m sewer contracts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has signed contracts with seven local firms to lay a sewer network 240 kilometres long here at a cost of about JD 5 million.

Signing the contracts for the WAJ was its Director-General Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani while the managing directors of

the seven companies signed on behalf of their respective firms.

The WAJ, Dr. Keilani, said, will float more tenders within the next two months for similar projects.

Local contractors will be invited to execute WAJ's projects both inside and outside of Amman, as part of its policy to encourage local contractors.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the WAJ will Saturday float 13 tenders for sewerage projects in various parts of Amman and its suburbs.

Work on these projects is scheduled to finish by the end of the year, WAJ officials were reported as saying.

U.N. to establish poultry training centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture has signed an agreement with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to set up a regional training centre for poultry raising here at a cost of \$3 million.

The Italian government will cover the costs of this project, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported Friday.

The agreement also includes provisions for the holding of training courses on topics connected with the poultry industry and on combating related diseases.

Instructions on marketing methods and studies aimed at defining the problems encountered by the

industry are also to be included. The agreement also provides for the setting up of a laboratory to test the quality of fodder and to advise farmers especially in this respect.

The agreement, Petra said, also stipulates for the production of instructions pamphlets and to organise activities through the various institutes in the FAO participating member countries.

The long-term plan, Petra added, aims to assist these countries in increasing poultry meat and egg production and for increasing the income of farmers in the sector.

Signing the agreement were

Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Bashir, for the Jordanian government, and Mr. Adnan Raouf, the U.N. resident representative in Jordan for FAO.

Memorandum on Israeli expropriation of Arab water sent to U.N.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University has sent a memorandum to the United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar containing the recommendations of an international seminar held here last month called "Israel and Arab Waters."

The memorandum, according to President of Yarmouk University Adnan Badran, outlined the aggressive steps taken by the Israeli occupation authorities against water-resources in the occupied Arab lands, the exploitation of water-reserves for the benefit of Israeli occupation authorities, the plans made by Israel to continue aggression on neighbouring Arab countries to reach for more Arab water-resources.

These, he said, are all facts that show the extent to which Israel has gone to violate laws governing occupation forces, international pacts and conventions and the various resolutions issued by the international organisations and specialised committees.

Dr. Badran said that the main motivations for submitting the memorandum to the U.N. secretary was out of a recognition of the role which the international organisation can undertake to put an end to "these covetous intentions" and "to expose the Israeli measures taken against the neighbouring countries."

He also said it would facilitate the job undertaken by the specialised U.N. committees to realise the facts about these situations.

U.S. can no longer be honest mediator

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians living under occupation all of their human rights or the rights to express themselves in freedom.

The U.S. looks at us and speaks of direct negotiations being the only way out, while we don't know what the U.S. position is.

We see things in the following way: Israel is on our land. It is there by virtue of American military and economic aid that translates into aid for Israeli settlements. Israel is there by virtue of American moral and political point to the point where the United States is succumbing to Israeli dictates.

It's obvious that this being the case, there is no way by which anyone should imagine it would be possible for Arabs to sit and talk with Israel as long as things are as they are.

As far as the United States is concerned, the question that is posed is: Is the United States able to elevate itself to the status of a superpower? To live up to its commitments and its frequent pronouncements of being even-handed? We don't see it happening. We obviously can't deal with the United States as an ally of Israel or as a mediator.

The United States asserts that its present plan is valid, but is it really? Israel has rejected it; Israel has changed conditions on the ground to the point where it almost makes no sense. We have another year of an election campaign in the United States; contenders must appeal for the favours of AIPAC and Zionism and Israel. Even this year has seen such drastic changes on the ground that within a year, any fragments of hope left of achieving a peaceful solution to the problem will be destroyed. So this is where we are, and that's why I say it's hopeless.

Working with U.S. failed

Q: What are the implications of what you're saying?

A: The implications are that as far as I'm concerned, the positions we have adopted over the years, of trying to establish a dialogue with Washington and the United States, of trying to contribute to the creation of a more balanced approach to the problem, which is in the interests of all of the parties to this conflict, have failed.

You obviously have made your

choice and your choice is Israel and support of Israel. That being the case, there is no hope of achieving anything.

In point of fact, we have given more than we have taken. We sought peace in the area; we were ready to try to work with the Reagan plan. Israel was the force that rejected it, that did not wish peace, yet we are portrayed as if we are the party that is opposed to peace. Apart from being unjust, it is also incorrect.

Q: Does this mean that you will not participate in any American-sponsored or American-brokered negotiations with Israel?

A: Not the way things look, no. One has to be a realist. It has cost us a lot. U.S. credibility has suffered, but so have those who have believed in the United States. The possibility of having a meaningful policy, of your standing up and defending meaningful principles have also suffered.

We were sincere and honest, and we tried our best. But I can't see anything happening except further deterioration of the situation. We worked for progress in this area, that's all I can say.

Q: What options does this leave you, where does Jordan turn now?

A: Jordan has always been on its own. We have no strategic alliance with the United States; it has no treaty with the Soviet Union. It has a just cause it has been defending and will continue to do so: The Arab identity, the Arab cause. But we face formidable threats that threaten not only oil in this area but world peace. We have stood against all attempts at polarisation in this area and will continue to do so, but it seems again that there are two sides that are working for polarisation. Israel on one side and some of the Arabs on the other. As I see it, there is more commonality between these two allegedly opposing sides.

Q: Do you mean Syria?

A: I mean those who work for polarisation on all sides, including the United States.

Silent West Bank majority

Q: So what happens to efforts to put together a so-called moderate Arab coalition?

A: Jordan and the Palestinians will continue to work together to secure our relations on a foundation of trust and common clarity of vis-

ion. But as I have said time and time again, it is ridiculous that Israel gives itself the right to question that right of those living under occupation to come and meet with us here, or even meet with the PLO. As far as I can understand, when we look at the possibility of a PNC (Palestine National Council) meeting, perhaps very shortly, it is ironic that you have two sides that are preventing the previously silent majority, which isn't silent anymore, from expressing themselves. Israel on one hand and others in Syria who will not participate in the talks — they are preventing the people who really matter from expressing themselves.

Jews in the Soviet Union — the whole world is up in arms that they do not have the right to move, to Israel in particular. Well, they are Soviet citizens and part of the state. The United States has protested vigorously. But people who are not Israeli, who are under occupation, should they not be permitted to voice an opinion about anything, about what should happen to them? And remember, these are Jordanian citizens, or those for whom Egypt is responsible.

Soviet role

Q: What would have to change to renew the possibility of direct talks with Israel by Jordan and some Palestinians?

A: Jordan and the Palestinians are one team. And we will work together on all fronts. But as for any negotiations, since the United States keeps its current policies, it certainly should not have the right to deny others to be present at any new negotiations. That's why I think the Soviets have the right to

U.S. diplomat kidnapped

(Continued from page 1)

accused each other of shooting first.

It was the first time that combatants engaged in prolonged mortar duels since Lebanon's nine principal leaders holding reconciliation talks in Lausanne, Switzerland, ordered the ceasefire on Tuesday.

Lebanese radio stations said a four-party security committee in charge of stabilising the ceasefire was making telephone contacts with militia commanders in an effort

to halt the downtown fighting. The state radio said the mortar exchanges tapered off at mid-morning, but sniper fire persisted in the commercial district and at other areas along the "green line" between east and west Beirut.

The security committee is made up of representatives of the Lebanese army and warring militias. It is scheduled to resume plenary sessions on Saturday to form teams of ceasefire observers to police the truce in Beirut and hills east of the capital.

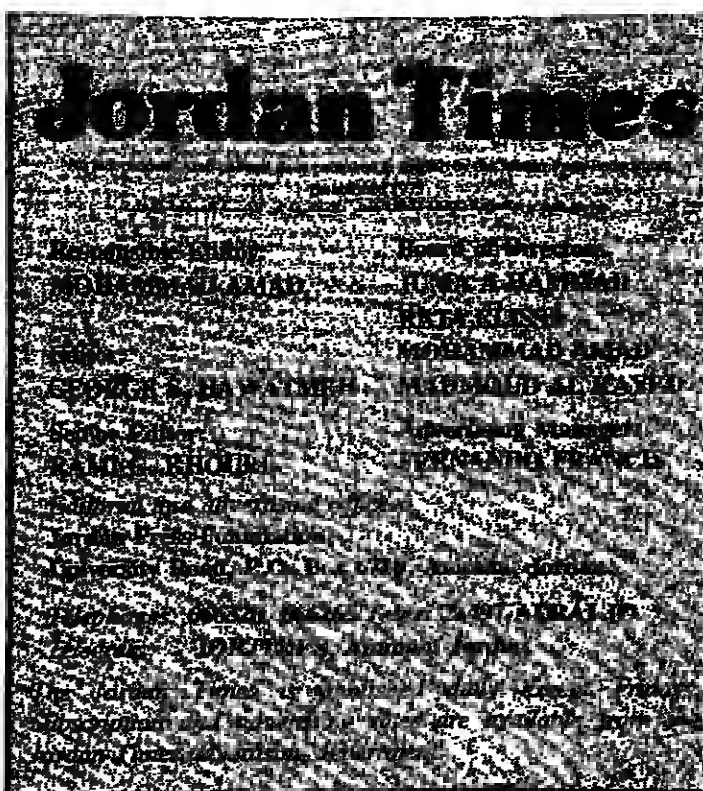
'Double standard'

Q: But then is there no one now in a position, neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union, who can be an honest broker or mediator?

A: No, least of all the United States.

Q: What about the impact of the United States withdrawal from Lebanon on your thinking, especially since you told me the last time I saw you that the Americans should not withdraw without a ceasefire on the ground?

A: I would rather not comment. I have a final thought: I am very concerned about the United States and its double standard everywhere. The saddest point for me is that I've always believed values and courageous principles were an area that we shared. I now realise that principles mean nothing to the United States. Short-term issues, especially in election years, prevail. This is the saddest thing that one can experience. I continue to believe that principles matter. If they don't, that's even more disastrous for us all.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday

Al Ra'i: U.S. bears the responsibility

IN HIS interview with the New York Times, His Majesty King Hussein evaluated in black and white the American role in the area, describing it as biased, since it chose to relinquish credibility, principles and values and came Israel's support by increasing military, economic and political assistance to it. This has enabled Israel to continue building more settlements in the occupied Arab land. This attitude is enshrined by the legislative proposals for transferring the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and the embargo on the sale of U.S. weapons to Jordan.

King Hussein's evaluation of the American policy in the area reflects the evaluation of all Arabs to the Reagan administration's Mideast policy.

The strange thing, the King said, is that America, despite preferring to relinquish its credibility, values and principles and opting to support Israeli aggression, still imagines that it can involve other Arab parties to negotiate with Israel, and in other words make them succumb to it. This reflects the American hypocrisy which is not accepted by Arabs.

U.S. reluctance from exerting any new effort in the area for a period of time after being faced with the Arab evaluation of its policy also reflects such a deceptive attitude.

It is useful for the U.S. administration to understand that the efforts it had exerted in the area had never been constructive ones, but only brought destruction and pains to Lebanon, just as they did in the occupied Arab territories since they had been overrun by Israel.

American hostility to Arabs is quite clear now, it cannot be concealed any more. This hostility might secure the Jewish votes for some American candidate for the presidency, but it will at all times offend the reputation of the American people and American interests in the area.

It is time the U.S. understood that Arabs cannot be a tool in its hand, and that they could confront it with all the means, resources and potentials they have. America has chosen to be hostile to the Arabs, and hence Arabs will not place it except where it has chosen to be.

Al Dustour: Clear and fair say

KING HUSSEIN'S statement to the New York Times outlined explicitly the American stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause in particular and Arab issues in general.

The American stand has automatically been supportive of Israel and hostile to norms of righteousness and justice, and to the Palestinian people's aspirations for a just peace in this part of the world. The United States has become unable to prove its credibility concerning its promises and decisions, because it has opted to abandon its role as a great state and a world power.

Principles, King Hussein said, mean nothing to the United States, as it has come to endorse a fair accompaniment policy, and no longer sees in the settlement policy pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories a violation of international law.

Israel's rejection of the Reagan initiative, its measures for imposing Israeli laws on the occupied Arab territories, plans for resettlement of refugees and the ever-ready American veto that aborts adopting firm international measures vis-a-vis such practices, are not but first-hand evidence that the American decision is subject to the Israeli will.

King Hussein reiterated in his statement that Jordan had spared no effort to work on finding a just peace in the area and had exerted every possible effort to convince the U.S. to adopt a more flexible role; but all those efforts were to no effect, in view of the U.S. biased stand.

Despite the frustrating atmosphere prevailing in the area, Jordan works on the grounds that it is defending a just cause, and thus it has its own stand which is aimed at liberating the people and the occupied land. Therefore and in the light of the threats and challenges facing us, we attach great hope to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move and hope that such a move will continue on the basis of confidence and clear vision. We trust that through determination, good will and insistence, we shall achieve our ultimate goals.

Thursday

Al Ra'i: Common national endeavour

IT WAS a wise step by His Majesty King Hussein to order a joint exercise on civil defence between the armed forces and various departments for the sake of defending the country's institutions in the event of an external attack on Jordan.

The civil defence exercise means the creation of co-ordination and interaction between civilians and the military, and between their corresponding institutions of Jordan for protecting Jordanian citizens and absorbing enemy attacks on this country.

This is a chance for all citizens to prove their loyalty to their nation and demonstrate their commitment to work with the government in order to defend the country and safeguard its interests.

Citizens have equal opportunity to that of the army in defending their country in times of peace as well as war, and therefore all citizens are now invited to join the armed forces in their endeavours to safeguard the interests of Jordan and ensure safety for all.

The civil defence exercise will be the first step towards cementing this military-civilian cohesion and should be the starting point for mobilising all the resources and potentials of our people to protect the nation.

Al Dustour: Fruitful meeting in Baghdad

IN THE light of Arab foreign ministers' resolutions issued in Baghdad, we believe that the conference has achieved success by reflecting the keenness of Arabs to mobilise their efforts and also demonstrating Arab Nation's solidarity.

It was an achievement coming at a time when the Arab Nation is deeply divided, and Arab ranks are in disarray. The conference has expressed the Arab countries' determination to stand by Iraq in the face of Iran's aggression and support its call for peaceful negotiations with Iran to arrive at honourable peace.

The achievement was made despite the boycott to the conference by certain Arab states which chose to support the Iranian enemy. These Arab states are supposed to be committed under the Arab Mutual Defence pact to come to the aid of Iraq or other Arab states which face external aggression.

The conference formed a committee to follow up the implementation of the conference's resolutions. We hope that the committee will make progress to enhance Arab solidarity and thus help re-unify Arab ranks, which is an essential factor for solidarity among the Arabs in the face of their common enemies.

Sawt Al Shaab: Promising Lebanese talks

FOR THE first time we have reason to be optimistic that the Lebanese conflict will be solved and that peace will after all come to the strife-torn nation. The Lausanne conference has given us hope that the sufferings of the Lebanese people are now about to come to end, and that a new era will begin for the country and its people.

The proposals made by the Lebanese president for a ceasefire and a security plan to be implemented in co-operation with all factions give us hope for the future. Lebanon is in need of social and political reforms which the country's leaders in Lausanne are trying to shape up. The Lausanne conference has all the chance to succeed because of the need for peace and because of open Syrian support for the factions' achievement of unity and end to the conflict.

Israel is now trying to stir trouble and impede the reconciliation effort in Lausanne and, therefore, is urging the Falangists to take an extreme attitude and oppose the other factions. The leaders now meeting in Lausanne are expected to transcend all differences and arrive at a formula which can offer equality to all.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

What is American policy in the Mideast?

SAN FRANCISCO — What is American policy in the Middle East? Is it the Reagan "peace plan"? Is it still some variant of "Camp David"? Nobody seems to know. And, beyond generalities, Washington is not saying much. But a recent book that appeared in the U.S. may give a clue.

It is called "Real Peace" and was written by your disgraced former president, Richard Nixon. It has been praised by friends and foes alike as a powerful piece of political thinking. Yet in this book Nixon barely mentions the Middle East. Most of the book is about U.S.-Soviet relations. He has a chapter on NATO and Japan, one on China, and another devoted largely to Central America.

He does have just a few words to say on the Middle East. He comments briefly that even if the Soviets did not exist, Palestinians would be fighting

for a homeland; Iran and Iraq would still be at war; India and Pakistan would arm themselves against each other.

Nixon is a smart man. He is past 70, yet seems as healthy as Reagan. In fact, there are good grounds to think Nixon remains an influential behind-the-scenes adviser to the White House. Harry Truman reshaped U.S. foreign policy in the late 1940's. Nixon did so in the early 1970's. Some people still think it was Kissinger. Not so. Nixon was the master and Kissinger was his servant, clever like many servants but still the servant. The surest sign is that Nixon has written four powerful books on foreign policy since leaving office. Beyond his gossipy memoirs, Kissinger has written nothing.

Why can we learn about U.S. foreign policy, and Mideastern policy in particular, from this book? Because Nixon, throughout, gives the sense of a man strong in his convictions and belief that what he has to say will not conflict with what his fellow Republican, Ronald Reagan, is doing.

So what can we say from the brief remarks about the Middle East? Two things. First Nixon puts the Palestinian issue at the top of the list of Middle Eastern concerns. And, more significantly, nowhere in the book does he mention Israel.

If we try to translate Nixon's brief remarks into current foreign policy terms, it might go as follows: — The U.S. must develop a foreign policy oriented to the Arab Nation. And that can only succeed if there is a resolution to the Palestinian issue. — The U.S. must not take sides in the Iran-Iraq war, nor in the disputes between India and Pakistan. The only conflicts the U.S. must take sides in

are those in which the Soviet Union is involved. And since Nixon never mentions the 7,000 Soviet "advisers" in Syria, he clearly is not urging that the U.S. become anti-Syrian.

And how do we interpret the silence on Israel? It can only mean that: — Israel has no role to play in the logic of U.S. foreign policy.

One can see that the first two guidelines seem to be guiding U.S. policy in the Middle East. Despite the dangerous frictions with the Syrians and forces in Lebanon supported by the Syrians, the U.S. has not chosen to fight Syria. Instead it is talking to Syrian President Assad. And while there is a "tilt" towards Iraq, the Pentagon still buys Iranian oil. There is, as yet, no readiness to class Iran as an enemy comparable, for example, to Cuba.

The U.S. has also, twice, played major roles in rescuing Yasser Arafat. So one can say that the desire of the U.S. to develop relations with all the Arab countries remains an aim of U.S. foreign policy.

But how could one say Israel is absent from the logic of U.S. foreign policy after the conclusion of an agreement for strategic collaboration between the U.S. and Israel? Did not the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recently visit Israel?

Obviously Nixon knows better than anyone else how immense and intricate the U.S. relationship to Israel is. But his silence on the subject conveys one message: Israel has no role to play whatsoever in the U.S.-Soviet relationship, the chief concern of U.S. foreign policy.

When he was president, Nixon allied the U.S. with the Shah. He raised the relationship with Saudi Arabia to an alliance. And he swung Egypt away from the Soviet Union. That policy failed. But one purpose of that policy was to downgrade U.S. ties to Israel. Carter upgraded the relationship by trying to tie Israel directly into U.S. Middle Eastern policy. Reagan at first upgraded even more U.S. ties to Israel, but now Washington is seeking links with various Arab countries bypassing Israel and, of course, Iran. The strategic collaboration agreement is meaningless beyond the usual massive shipments of money and arms.

An analogy that might make Nixon smile is that between Israel and Taiwan. If he had written on Israel, he might have said that U.S. policy ought to be similar to that on Taiwan: Do not abandon it, but reduce it massively in political importance.

The phobia behind U.S. foreign policy

By Frank Church

The writer was a Democratic senator from Idaho from 1956 to 1980 and chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in 1979-80.

WASHINGTON — The inability of the United States to come to terms with revolutionary change in the Third World has been a leitmotif of U.S. diplomacy for nearly 40 years. This failure has created America's biggest international problems in the post-war era.

The root of the problem is not, as many Americans persist in believing, the relentless spread of Communism. It is our own difficulty in understanding that Third World revolutions are primarily nationalist, not Communist. Nationalism, not capitalism or Communism, is the dominant political force in the modern world.

Where a nationalist uprising was combined with a Marxist element of some kind or with violent revolutionary behavior, Americans have come unbidden. This happened most dramatically in the biggest tragedy of American diplomacy since World War II, Vietnam. But it has happened repeatedly in other countries as well, most recently in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Given the size and the seriousness of our failures to deal successfully with nationalist revolutions, you might think we would be busy trying to figure out why we have done so badly, and how we could do better in the future. But, on the contrary, we simply stick to discredited patterns of behavior, repeating the old errors as though they had never happened.

The latest example is the Kissinger commission's report painting events in Central America in ominously stark colours. The commission has said that in principle the United States can accept revolutionary situations but that in Nicaragua and El Salvador it cannot — because of Soviet and Cuban involvement.

But the sad fact is that the Soviets will always try to take advantage of revolutionary situations, as will the Cubans, particularly in the Western Hemisphere. To solve our problem we have to learn to adapt to revolutions even when Communists are involved in them, or we will continue to repeat the errors of the last four decades.

Revolutionary regimes are not easy to live with, particularly for a country as conservative as the United States has become.

As Hannah Arendt noted in her classic work, "On Revolution," the United States has made a series of desperate attempts to block revolutions in other countries, "with the result that American power and prestige were used and misused to support obsolete and corrupt political regimes that long since had become objects of hatred and contempt among their own citizens."

Why does the United States, the first nation born of revolution in the modern age, find it so difficult to come to terms with revolutionary change in the late 20th century?

One answer involves the nature of our own revolution. It was essentially a revolt against political stupidity and insensitivity.

With sparsely populated, easily accessible and abundant lands, the restless and dissatisfied in early America had an outlet for their discontent. The young United States never had to deal with the fineness of an impoverished majority.

In the first half of this century, when the country faced the prospect of sharpened class conflict as a result of the excesses of an unbridled capitalism, we were blessed

with patrician leaders, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, who had the foresight to introduce needed reforms. An intelligent, conservative, property-owning class had the sense to accept them.

But our experience is alien to other countries that do not share our natural wealth. In poor countries, a desperate major often lives on the margin of subsistence. A selfish, property-owning minority and, often, an indifferent middle class intrinsically protect their privileges. Dissidence is considered subversive.

It is not surprising that those who wish to change these conditions resort to insurrection. They take their lead not from the American but from the French revolutionary tradition. In Hannah Arendt's phrase, the "passion of compassion" led the Robespierres of the time to terrible excesses in the name of justice for the masses.

The spectacle of violent, sometimes anarchic revolutionary activity combined with an obsessive fear that revolutions will fall prey to Communism has led us to oppose radical change all over the Third World, even where it is abundantly clear that the existing order offers no real hope of improving the lives of the great majority.

I am not arguing that revolutions are romantic or pleasant. History is full of examples, from France to Iran, of revolutions born in brutality and often accompanied by extended bloodbaths of vengeance and reprisal, and which ultimately produce just another form of authoritarianism to replace the old. But the fact that we may not like the revolutionary process or its results is, alas, not going to prevent revolutions from happening.

On the other hand, the fact that revolutions are going to happen need not mean disaster for the United States. Our past failures do suggest a way we can adapt to revolutions without fighting them or sacrificing vital national interests.

Consider the case of Vietnam. Our overriding concern with "monolithic" Communism led us grossly to misread the revolution in that country.

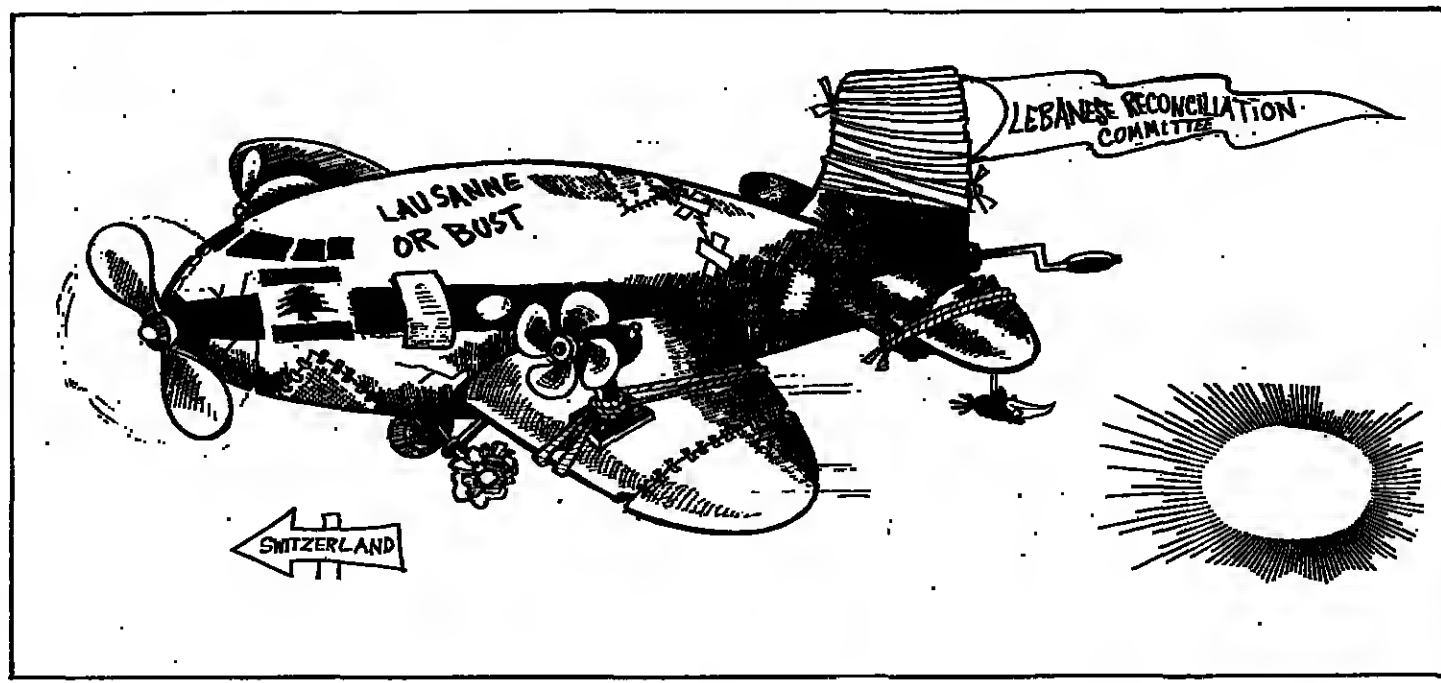
Ignoring centuries of enmity between the Vietnamese and the Chinese, our leaders interpreted a possible victory for Ho Chi Minh's forces as a victory for international Communism.

The war against the French and then the war among the Vietnamese became in our eyes a proxy war by China and the Soviet Union even after those two powers had split, destroying the myth of "monolithic" Communism. Indochina, in the new American demography, was seen as the first in a series of falling dominoes.

Vietnam did fall to the Communists, but only two dominoes followed — Laos and Cambodia, both of which we had roped into the war. Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia continue to exist on their own terms. China, for whom Hanoi was supposed to be a proxy, is now engaged in armed skirmishes against Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the United States, having been compelled to abandon the delusion of containing the giant of Asia behind a flimsy network of puppet governments stretched thinly around her vast frontiers, has at last shown the good sense to make friends with China. American influence, far from collapsing, has drawn strength from this sensible new policy, and has been rising ever since. As for Communism taking over, it is already a wasting force.

The thriving economies are capitalist: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore. You don't hear Asians describing Communism as the wave of the future — The Washington Post.



Jews hostile to Christian missionaries

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

JERUSALEM — In a ramshackle building in the heart of Jerusalem's ultra-religious Mea Shearim neighbourhood, Rabbi Moshe Porush directs an unrelenting struggle against Christian missionaries whom he accuses of stealing Jewish souls.

"Proselytising among Jews in Israel has reached alarming proportions," said Rabbi Porush, who heads the anti-missionary department of Yad L'Achim (help for our brothers), a private, organisation devoted to increasing Jewish awareness among Israelis.

"These missionaries are trying to achieve the spiritual genocide of what is left of the Jewish people," he said angrily.

A few kilometres across town, in the exclusive Talbich neighbourhood, Jan Willem Van Der Hoeven of the International Christian Embassy, an organisation devoted to increasing support for Israel among Christians, compared Rabbi Porush and people like him to the Pharisees of new testament times who persecuted Jesus Christ.

"These people prove the new testament was right. That same Pharisaic element that we all know

was the downfall of Christ is here again in modern Israel," he said, thumping his desk for emphasis. Clashes between the two government officials are concerned over an upsurge of anti-missionary feeling among Israelis which has recently spilled over into violence.

In recent weeks, the church of one Jerusalem sect, the Messianic Assembly, has been set on fire, people taken as missionaries in the northern town of Tiberias have been attacked and several Christian leaders have received threatening letters.

Daniel Rossing, head of the Religious Affairs Ministry's Christian Department, said groups like Yad L'Achim were waging a sophisticated and effective propaganda campaign in the Israeli press against missionaries.

"Unfortunately, they don't always distinguish between missionaries and the majority of Christians who only want to practise their faith in peace," he said.

Mr. Rossing also criticised missionary groups. "They insist on distributing Christian tracts in orthodox Jewish neighbourhoods and sending missionary material through the mail to yeshivas (Jewish religious seminaries)," he said.

Last summer, after a number of

such mailings, hundreds of yeshiva students demonstrated against a performance of Handel's "Messiah" in Jerusalem, repeatedly disrupted it and tried to attack members of the visiting American choir.

Mr. Van Der Hoeven said he could understand why Israelis were so hostile to missionaries.

"There is the terrible testimony of history. During the Spanish Inquisition priests tortured Jews to convert them. Both before and after that, the Christian world's record towards Jews was dismal. We have to understand that these things are not forgotten," he says.

Victor Smadja of the Messianic Assembly, whose congregation consists mainly of Jewish converts to Christianity, acknowledged that his sect regularly distributed missionary tracts in orthodox Jewish neighbourhoods.

"What's wrong with that?" he asked. "We don't label anyone. It doesn't harm the state. Anyone who finds our material offensive can throw it away."

Mr. Smadja said his central message to Israelis was that they did not cease being Jewish by accepting Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

Rabbi Porush said missionary groups were backed by almost unlimited funds from Protestant churches in the U.S., Europe and South Africa.

'Dirty war' rages in French Basque country

By Brendan Murphy
Associated Press

PARIS — A "dirty war" in French Basque country has been gathering momentum and the number of victims has increased in recent weeks, as right-wing Spanish death squads have carried out repeated assassinations of Spanish Basque refugees.

Five Spanish Basques living in the border region of southwest France have been killed over the past four months — two last December and three in February. Two have simply disappeared, believed kidnapped and slain.

All are presumed to have fallen victim to the Grupos Antiterroristas de Liberacion (GAL), a right-wing Spanish terrorist group apparently seeking vengeance for terrorist acts on Spanish soil attributed to the Spanish Basque extremist group ETA.

Much of the violence in French Basque country has spilled over from the troubled Basque region in Spain, where election violence in late February claimed the life of a Spanish senator.

But tensions between French Basque separatists and the French police, also rising, led last week to a fatal shooting in the Atlantic coastal city of Bayonne.

With the tempo of violence picking up, the Basque question, which French and Spanish authorities once thought near resolution, is more explosive than

ever. It could also bring increasing strain between these two Socialist nations.

On Monday (March 5), 1,000 people in the French border town of Hendaye attended the funeral of Jean-Pierre Lieba, a young Frenchman gunned down March 1 in front of the local railroad station to become the first French victim of the "dirty war".

Mr. Lieba, a 29-year-old freight handler, had no known involvement in Basque separatist politics, but was standing with a group of Spanish Basque refugees when alleged members of GAL opened fire.

Pursued by Mr. Lieba's friends, the gunmen fled across a nearby bridge over the Bidasoa River into Spanish territory. Within hours Spanish officials had arrested four suspects in the case, who, according to the Madrid daily EL Pais, stated they had acted for "patriotic reasons."

Alleged by its Basque targets to have links with the Spanish police, GAL denied responsibility for the attack. But French press reports attributed this denial to the mistake in identity that led to the death of a French citizen.

That same evening, the French police in Bayonne shot and killed Didier Lafitte, a young French Basque militant. The police were trying to arrest another Basque in connection with the August 1983 slaying of an area policeman, and

Mr. Lafitte was hit in the chest during an exchange of gunfire.

However, the Spanish Basque refugees remain the central problem in the region for the French government, which recently adopted a tougher stance in response to Spanish government claims that the Basque exile community in France has provided a staging ground for ETA terrorism in Spain.

In January, French officials arrested 10 of the Spanish Basque refugees, deporting six of them to Panama via the French Caribbean possession of Guadeloupe. But since then, conditions in French Basque country have only worsened.

Most of the killings on the French side of the border have followed alleged ETA violence in Spain.

The Feb. 8 murders of two Basque refugees on a street in Hendaye came shortly after the Jan. 29 murder of a retired Spanish army general in Madrid.

But according to Christiane Fando, a St. Jean de Luz attorney who has represented the Basque refugees, the most recent killing in Hendaye came for no apparent reason. She believes that the GAL killings will continue, and charges that the French government has not done all it can to stop them.

"The question now is who will be next," Ms. Fando said in an interview. "Anyone can be the

target."

The government of President Francois Mitterrand has moved to back Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez in his war on the ETA — seen by officials in Madrid and Paris as a destabilising element in the Spanish democratic experiment.

But security of French territory was also a consideration, and GAL killings last December convinced the French government it had to crack down on Basque militant activities north of the border.

However, France's crackdown through deportations, house arrests and increased surveillance of the Spanish refugees, has not reduced the violence.

Since 1979 the French government has refused to grant the Spanish Basque refugees formal political asylum, reasoning that with the end of the Franco regime in Spain the Basques were no longer a repressed minority.

But this week the council of state, France's highest appeals body for administrative matters, decided that the refugees' case had not been fully examined, thus re-opening the question of their right to political asylum.

Informed of the French court decision while on an official visit to Belgium, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Fernando Moran commented: "I don't have any information on this, but if it is accurate, it is bad news."

What will happen if computers come to outwit man?

By Dr. Nebil Boulos

SOME YEARS ago a panel of judges was formed and asked to identify those people who it thought were most influential in shaping the world we live in. After much thought and deliberations, the judges' verdict was: Charles Darwin for his theory of evolution; Albert Einstein for his theory of relativity; Sigmund Freud for his work in psychoanalysis; and Karl Marx for introducing Communism.

The message in the selection is quite clear: All these men were not rulers, not conquerors, not inventors. They were all creators of concepts. Ten years ago, the computer was regarded as an invention, a facility. Today, this viewpoint is being questioned as new horizons are being explored. Throughout history, man has been inventing tools and machines to do his working, his writing, his listening, his talking, his running, his flying, his orbiting — the ultimate technological development is the computer — to do his thinking.

Historical philosophers say that each time man produces ten times as much of an item as he had previously, a new "era" or "generation of progress" begins. A man can walk five miles per hour. The horse increased man's speed, but not to ten times his previous speed. By 1900, the automobile was available, and man's speed became 50 miles per hour. This brought in a dramatic change in man's way of life. By 1950, air travel achieved speeds of 500 miles an hour, and this again ushered in a new era. No doubt when space travel becomes a common thing in the very near future, other changes will take place. In other words, in less than 100 years two orders of magnitude in the speed of transportation took place. If we were to apply the same yardstick, the speed of computations increased 10 million times during the last 30 years. What changes are we to expect?

Moreover, the interval between discovery and application in the physical sciences is shrinking exponentially. Photography took 112 years between discovery and application; the telephone 56 years; the radio 35 years; the X-ray tube 18 years; television 12 years; atomic bomb six years; the solar battery two years.

The growth of man's knowledge is again exponential. Man's knowledge at the time of Christ was not doubled until 1750. The second doubling took place 150 years later, in 1900, and once again a doubling in 1950. Today the amount of knowledge we have accumulated in the past 10 years is equal to the sum total of all the previously acquired wisdom. And we worry why our children use their pocket calculators to do their arithmetic. Believe me, they have

so many more important things to learn other than the multiplication tables.

Marvel of electronics

Which brings us to the computer — this marvel of electronics and zero's and one's, zero's and one's: To be or not to be, and the world will never be the same. Not only our business dealings and daily routines will be more and more automated, but our tastes and modes of life will be shaped and to some extent dictated by what the computer researches and analyses. Our learning processes will be revolutionised and our values, I believe, will change. You see, the potential of technology is inherently neither good nor bad; it really depends on our ability to harness it wisely.

The first mechanical calculating aid came in 1642 with the invention of an adding machine by Pascal. The next giant development came in 1812 when the Englishman Charles Babbage drew plans for a machine that could calculate and print trigonometric and logarithmic tables. He called it the *Difference engine*, but he was too ambitious for the technology of the day that the machine was never really completed. He also started work on another machine which he called the *analytical engine*, that not only did computations but also logical decisions. He died a frustrated man, but his were indeed the first true computers.

(May I divert here and relate this story about Babbage. His obsession for accuracy prompted him at one time to write to Lord Tennyson asking him to change the lines of his poem: "Every moment dies a man/Every moment one is born" to "Every moment dies a man/Every moment 1 and 1/6 is born", arguing that otherwise the population of the world would have long ago come to a standstill.)

In 1933, Claude Shannon, and while still a student at MIT, used the ideas of George Boole concerning logic to greatly simplify the design of electrical circuits. This laid the ground for the construction of a huge electromechanical computer, the Mark I, at Harvard in 1944, followed in 1945 by the ENIAC developed at the Moore School of Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, and identified as the first electronic computer.

These computers and others of the time belonged to what is referred to as the first-generation computers. They were very bulky, used vacuum tubes, generated much heat, and were relatively slow.

The second generation computers came about in the mid 50's

and used transistors, and thus, were smaller in size, required little power to operate and generated little heat. Then the 60's saw miniaturisation or the use of micro-electronics. This resulted in smaller, faster and more reliable computers and were known as 3rd-generation computers. It is interesting to note here that the speed by which computations and processing took place inside these computers was measured in terms of microseconds (1 millionth of a second). Today's speeds are measured in terms of nanoseconds (1 billionth of a second) and picoseconds (1 trillionth of a second).

Then came the computer-on-the-chip — a tiny flat piece of mostly silicon. Unveiled in 1971, this one-chip computer contained some 2,250 transistors in an area of a quarter of an inch square. In computational power alone, this chip or microprocessor matched the first electronic computer. It is cheap, easy to mass produce, fast and infinitely versatile, and is already a revolution within the computer revolution. Its storage capabilities are vast that the entire contents of an encyclopedia can be stored on one chip. Because of its versatility, it is estimated that some 25,000 applications of the computer are awaiting discovery. The problem, I hope you appreciate, is not technology, but imagination.

All kinds of jobs

Where does this take us? Only a child at play can tell. Already the computer is enabling Jumbo jets to fly by themselves, helping automanufacturers to design more appealing cars by taking the specifications of the car and displaying the resulting design from all angles. It is turning the ordinary home telephone into both a burglar and a fire alarm. Computer-generated echography can be used to create totally new dances by supplying indications of movements. Patients can now be watched over and given injections automatically under instruction from a computer monitoring the patient's condition. At the University of Wisconsin Medical School, a computer was used to identify suicidal cases. Depressed patients were interviewed by a computer and 90 per cent of the actual suicide attempts were identified by the computer, compared with 30 per cent for doctors and therapists. At Stanford, a computer programme was launched recently that teaches students Armenian, not just vocabulary and grammar, but also pronunciation. There are computer programmes now that evaluate student essays, analyse the poetry of Dylan Thomas and Shakespeare, and study the relationship between art and psychology by analysing over 800,000 sketches by some 2000 persons. Computers are not only composing music, which is easy and uninteresting, but are assisting musicologists in analysing the structure of Bach's music and other composers. Long-standing mathematical problems are now being solved on the computer, and more importantly, programmes are being written that actually prove theorems from a set of axioms. There are chess-playing programmes that can easily beat the average player, not to mention computer programmes that compete against each other, as witnessed by the American-Soviet match of 1967 between two chess-playing programmes. The Soviets won three, to one.

The list goes on. Perhaps the most important use of computers is in real-time applications. Real-time means that data, derived from an event, are fed to the computer as the event occurs to obtain immediate responses. In the case of space vehicles, on a certain path or trajectory, tracking data is fed continuously to the computer so that the correctness of trajectory is constantly monitored, and corrections when needed are immediately computed. In computerised coronary intensive care units, data from the monitoring electrocardiograms are fed into the computer to initiate certain actions in the event of an accident. More dramatically, there are programmes now that modify themselves in the course of the processing. In all of the above-mentioned applications, the programmer's decisions are the computer outputs. In self-modifying programmes, the output is anybody's guess as the computer grinds away possibilities untold by the originator. The roles become interchanged. As if the song goes on without the singer. This is an active area of research today and the prospects could be mind-boggling.

Where does this put us? Is man being challenged by the machine and his intellectual supremacy put to the test? Not really; at least not yet. The amoeba is still by far a more powerful information processor than today's best chips. The nerve cell or neuron, which is to the brain what the vacuum tube or the transistor is to the computer, is a marvel of compactness and economy. It beats with respect to size its artificial analogues by a factor of 100 to 1000 millions. Whereas the energy dissipation by a typical neuron is barely one-billionth of a watt, a typical vacuum tube would dissipate five to 10 watts, and a transistor one tenth of a watt. Moreover, as an information receptacle, the brain is potentially enormously superior to any computer of current conceivable design. Assuming an efficiency of 0.001 per cent in retaining all accepted information, man still beats the biggest computer memory today by a factor of 50 million in the ability to recall information. It will take a long time and inexhaustible patience to artificially imitate the brain. But the challenges are elsewhere! As Norbert Wiener, the father of cybernetics, suggests: We should "render unto man the things which are the computer's."

In the coming couple of years, computers are expected to become components in larger systems. These component computers will be tailored precisely to their particular application area and will be nearly universal within that application. For example, a special dedicated computer will handle automobile driving; another secretarial work at the office (word processor); another patient-interviewing at a clinic. This component computer revolution will be rapidly followed by the component memory revolution in which the basic building block will be distributed memory. By the end of the 80's entire systems will be components, drastically changing the face of some familiar social institutions. This would enable factories in the 90's to become machines and offices portable machines.

By the end of the coming decade, we will have progressed from macrosystems to microsystems: Components will have become end products; machines and computers will have become components. These changes are well within the realm of responsible forecasting, yet their impact on future systems and on society is almost inconceivable. Computer evolution is increasing tenfold, chip technology one hundredfold, and innovation one thousandfold every decade. New developments will bring us cybernetic machines: intelligent machines, people-amplifier devices.

Farmer machines
Consider the hypothetical case of a "cookie farm". An intelligent planting machine loosens the soil ultrasonically, and then sows rows of wheat, oats and sugar beets. The seeds will be in special capsules that contain moisture to offset the effects of drought and moisture-inhibitors in case of excessive rain. Weeds will be automatically herbicided and crops will be fertilised and protected against insects. When the crops are ready for reaping, the microfactory machine will harvest them all at once. The crops will then pass through to the processing part of the machine where they will be ground, mixed and have chocolate chips added. The cookies will then be baked, cooled

and packaged. "Freshly baked" now takes a new meaning. The 1980's will extend the power of the ordinary human being through helpful robots. In the 1990's, we should expect intelligent robots. These intelligent helpers will eventually outgrow their status and, in the next century, the robots could themselves be served by their own workers or slaves. In this realm, computers will be characterised as "ethnocratic", a term coined from the words "ethnic" and "electronic" by Prof. Harkins of the University of Minnesota. Such appliances, amplifying peoples' capabilities and possessing communication skills along with computer intelligence, will establish an ethnocratic culture in which people will communicate with appliances, appliances will initiate conversations with people to make them "aware", and appliances will "talk" with other machines in order to amplify the person they serve. In other words, computer systems of the near future will be based on knowledge, rather than on data.

Socialised network
But in such a network, where small computers are linked together to form an organisational whole and where less capable machines are given instructions by highly more structured and valuable machines, doesn't this mirror a familiar structure in our social establishments. Are we heading towards a new science — the Fourth World — and so be compelled to deal more attentively with the social, legal and moral problems which they pose. This is almost frightening. The rate of evolution of machines is millions of times faster than that of humans, since we can combine separate improvements directly, whereas nature depends upon lucky events of recombination. Prof. Marvin Minsky of MIT, a great innovator and contributor in the field, is quoted to have said: "In a few years we will have a machine with the general intelligence of an average human being. I mean a machine that will be able to read Shakespeare, grease a car, have a fight. At that point the machine will begin to educate itself with fantastic speed. In a few months it will be at genius level, and a few months after that its powers will be incalculable. I hope that man and these ultimate machines will be able to collaborate without conflict. But if they can't, we may be forced to choose sides. And if it comes to a choice, I know what mine will be. My loyalties go to intelligent life, no matter in what medium it may arise."

Automated society
In 1968, a Swedish scientist wrote "The Tale of the Big Com-

puter" under the penname Olof Hobbansson. The Tale consists of four short essays. The first of these is devoted to a short resume of what society and technology were like in the years B.C. (Before Computer). One of the notable achievements in that period was the discovery of the Sociological Complexity Theorem — which states that the problem of organising society is too complex to be solvable by human endeavour. In the second essay, the Big Computer tells us the solution of the problem: Computer power. The initial, natural affiliation was between mathematician and machine, but the influence and prevalence of the computer spread rapidly throughout the social institutions — first into banking and industry, then into education, then into medical care, then into the administration of justice, and finally into the abolition of political government. Thus society became totally automated. The third essay reveals that the evolution towards automatisation perfection was marred by a technological disaster — a global failure of the communications and control system. The fourth essay is concerned with the state of affairs following the recovery from the Great Disaster. While there is some uncertainty as to the cause of the catastrophe, one point of view blames the bureaucracy. To prevent a repetition of the disaster, the computers are connected in a way which excludes any sort of human influence whatever; and as the computers are interconnected, a super computer thus comes into existence, and a new age begins. As the Big Computer puts it: "We have now a computer society rather than a human one. We may expect many radical changes in the near future, and one of the questions which will naturally come under discussion is whether computers will abolish mankind."

I wouldn't worry too much, despite the fact that the science fiction of today is the science of tomorrow. A little girl of five walking with her father asked him: "Daddy, why doesn't the sky fall upon our heads?" He couldn't answer her. No one could. She simply shrugged her shoulder, skipped a step and said: "I suppose it's because it is a friendly sky." I challenge the Big Computer if it will ever have a more convincing answer.

Are there any logical limitations to the things that can be automated? In other words: Are there things that machines can never do? During the latter half of the 19th century, mathematicians had been exploiting and extending the "axiomatic method" — that of stating axioms and then deriving theorems formally from these. Although much of this work had

been done in set theory, geometry and logic, by the turn of the century it seemed entirely reasonable to many mathematicians that eventually, all of the various parts of mathematics could be axiomatised. The extreme view point on this matter was that not only could all of the parts be axiomatised, but that mathematics as a whole could actually be axiomatised in a consistent, relatively simpler manner. In 1900, the German mathematician David Hilbert proposed a list of 23 problems whose solution he regarded as essential to the advancement of mathematics. Many of these problems have since been solved, many have led to other profound problems; some are still unsolved. The programme which Hilbert had in mind was the development of a logico-mathematical system within which all of mathematics would be embedded, and which was provably consistent. In 1931, this programme received a severe and mortal blow. A young Austrian logician, Kurt Godel, published a paper containing the following result: Any formal system which is sufficiently large to completely contain elementary number theory (that part of mathematics that deals with the arithmetic of the integers) must either contain formulas which are neither provable nor disprovable within the system or else be inconsistent.

To restate this, Godel showed that no matter how strong a formal system one invented, there would remain problems which could be formulated within the system, but which were unsolvable in the system. That is, there are mathematical problems which are bound to remain unsolved, not merely because man has not discovered how to solve them, but because man is apparently inherently incapable of discovering how to solve them.

With Godel's result, man's position is guaranteed. The computer viewed as a mathematical system, is therefore incapable of solving all the problems generated within it. I will spare you examples of such problems.

I believe in man — his whims and passions, his illogic and dreams, and because of man's unpredictability, we will continue to float from one horizon to another, creating new myths and discarding old truths. We will continue to enjoy Mozart, tell jokes and discover ourselves more. At the end, we will be judged by the things we didn't do.

The writer is a senior lecturer of computer sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Beirut University College (BUC). The above article is based on a lecture he delivered recently at the AUB Alumni Club in Amman.

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Cameroun hot favourites for African Nations Cup

ABIDJAN (R) — Cameroun, their silky skills winning more fans with every match, start hot favourites to lift the African Nations Soccer Cup for the first time as the two-week competition reaches its grand finale this weekend.

In Sunday's final, Cameroun meet a Nigerian side that has won only one of their four games on the way to the final and has been the centre of considerable controversy.

Cameroun disposed of Algeria, a side Nigeria's assistant coach James Peters admits he regards as the best in Africa, in the semi-final on a penalty shoot-out and Algerian skipper Ali Fergani said Friday their only problem was likely to be over confidence.

Egyptian coach Abdou Saleh Al-Wahsh, whose team lost to Nigeria in another shoot-out and meet old rivals Algeria Saturday in the third place play-off, is predicting a three or four goal win for Cameroun.

But Peters, cheerfully admitting his team's unpredictability, was far from despondent when discussing their chances Friday, thankful it was not Algeria they had to face.

The Nigerians have started almost all of their matches here as

underdogs, and their camp is clearly unperturbed about doing so again in the final.

"When you play against Algeria, they are strong in defence, midfield and attack, so you cannot take out four of your men and tell them to forget playing creative football but concentrate on playing their main men out of the game," Peters told Reuters.

"We think that Cameroun revolve around Tehephile Abega and if we can cope with him, then we are in with a very good chance," he said.

Abega, nicknamed 'the doctor', has emerged as one of the best schemers among the eight teams that set out on the glory road two weeks ago, but he is playing in a side that shows little change from their World Cup campaign two years ago when they reached the finals in Spain.

Despite losing their opening first round match against Egypt, Cameroun have looked a class above all but Algeria, fellow Afr-

ican representatives in Spain, with the subtle flicks of striker Roger Milla and the incisive runs of Ernest Ebongue causing consternation among defences.

The Nigerians, fined along with Algeria for a first round match in which neither team made any effort and hauled back into their semi-final with Egypt by a highly controversial penalty decision, have shown unusual vulnerability in defence that Cameroun's lethal strikers should exploit.

But in little Bala Ali, who scored the equaliser in a 2-2 draw with Egypt, they at last appear to have found the consistent striker they have long been seeking.

With Henry Nwosu, their crucial midfield pivot, back from injury and winger Clement Temile emerging as one of the most difficult to subdue, it would be rash to rule out the 1980 cup winners.

Nigeria's only doubtful starter is Chibuzor Ehigbue, a young midfielder who loves to score goals, who has a bad sore on the back of his heel.

The third place-play off should also produce some good football, but maybe some heat too, with Algeria seeking revenge over an Egyptian side that eliminated them from the Olympic competition.

Borg rules out full-time return

NEW YORK (R) — Bjorn Borg is considering playing several Grand Prix tournaments this year but has ruled out any full-time return to the international tennis circuit, his agent said Thursday.

Bob Kain of International Management Group (IMG), which represents Borg, said the former world number one may play in a \$100,000 Grand Prix tournament in Stuttgart, West Germany, starting on July 16.

"He may also play one or two other small Grand Prix tournaments, but that's all," Kain told Reuters in a telephone interview from his offices in Cleveland.

Kain said Borg would also play at least nine exhibition matches in the United States and Canada next month and in an eight-man exhibition tournament in Japan from April 30-May 13.

John McEnroe will be Borg's opponent in three Canadian exhibitions and in another to be staged before an audience of 400 in a ballroom at the New York Sheraton on April 12.

Borg arrived in Brazil Thursday for a 10-day visit in which he is scheduled to play a series of exhibition matches.

Bayern cast net for Rummenigge successor

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — West German soccer club Bayern Munich have begun the search for a successor to Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the star striker they have agreed to sell to Internazionale Milan of Italy.

Reports in the West German media say Bayern, who are expected to receive up to 10 million marks (\$3.7 million) for Rummenigge, have made inquiries about a number of potential replacements.

They include current West German centre-forward Rudi

Voeller of Werder Bremen and Herbert Waas, the 20-year-old Bayer Leverkusen striker who has already appeared in the national team.

Both clubs say the players are on long-term contracts and not available for transfer.

Rummenigge's transfer will be the second biggest in the history of the game. Bayern plan to use the cash to clear their debts of three million marks (\$1.15 million), pay Borussia Moenchengladbach 2.5 million marks (\$1 million) for midfielder Lothar Matthaus and buy a new striker.

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B.P., Shell boost profits

LONDON (R) — Two of the world's oil giants, British Petroleum (B.P.) and Shell, Thursday announced higher-than-forecast annual profits despite problems caused by a glut of crude oil on the international market.

B.P.'s net profits for 1983 were up £150 million to £866 million (an increase of \$219 million to \$1.27 billion).

The Anglo-Dutch Royal Dutch Shell Group said net profits were up 38 per cent between 1982 to £2.75 billion (\$4.02 billion) from £1.99 billion (\$2.91 billion).

B.P. chairman Sir Peter Walters said there was evidence the world was emerging from recession.

The company's loss-making chemicals sector was now breaking even and B.P. would continue to benefit from rationalisation in oil and chemicals in 1984, Mr. Walters said.

The British-based company also turned around its hard-hit refining and marketing operations, which emerged from an £86 million (\$126 million) loss in 1982 to

make a profit of £205 million (\$300 million) last year.

Shell noted that its results were particularly satisfactory when viewed in the context of the crude oil glut and the decline in the dollar price of oil.

It said its earnings rise was mainly in the gas and oil sectors, although it also noted an improvement in chemical sales.

The increased sterling profits of both companies were at least partly linked to the rising value during 1983 of the U.S. dollar.

Shell's turnover for 1983 was \$555.6 billion (\$81 billion) and B.P.'s was \$32.5 billion (\$47 b).

B.P. said it planned to intensify its North Sea operations during 1984 and increase capital spending on several North Sea projects.

Shell said economic growth in 1984 was likely to lead to some rise in oil demand.

But it said prices could come under pressure as the northern hemisphere winter, the traditional peak period for oil sales, began to recede.

Inflation in Israel accelerates

JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's inflation rate, among the highest in the world, is still rising and reached 225 per cent during the past 12 months, an official said Thursday.

He told reporters the consumer price index rose by 12 per cent last month, bringing inflation for the first two months of 1984 to 28.7 per cent.

The index, the base rate of which was an average of 1980 prices, now stands at 2539.8 compared with 100 in January 1981.

The official said the figure showed inflation had accelerated considerably in the first two months of this year. In 1983 it was 190.7 per cent.

Car firm to invest \$23m on new model

ISTANBUL (R) — The Franco-Turkish Oyak-Renault joint venture will invest seven billion liras (\$23 million) in Turkey to manufacture the Renault-9 car, company officials said Thursday.

The company has produced Renault-12 cars in Turkey for over 10 years at its plant in Bursa, 200 kilometres southeast of Istanbul.

Financing for the project, which will include installing new machinery and other equipment, will come from increasing the company's capital, investing undistributed profits and borrowing from abroad, the officials said.

Preparations at the plant for the new model are expected to be concluded by mid-1985, with a planned production of 35,000 Renault-9s per year.

Last year Oyak-Renault produced 21,300 Renault-12S, Turkey's biggest selling passenger car, and this year's target is 24,000 to 26,000 cars, the company officials added.

Illiquidity hits Viasa

CARACAS (AP) — Venezuela's national airline Viasa is close to financial crash and will need a capital injection of over \$100 million for a safe landing, according to its president, Mr. Luis Ignacio Mendoza.

Mr. Mendoza attributed part of the financial trouble to the fact that over 10 per cent of the passengers have been flying with substantial discounts or free.

Economic analyst and journalist Mr. Carlos Rangel blamed a great part of Viasa's financial woes on expensive labour contracts that guarantee high wages and large benefit packages.

Reagan, Republican leaders agree to cut budget deficit

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan and congressional leaders of his own Republican Party have agreed on a deficit reduction package to save the government \$150 billion over three years and reduce defence spending increases.

The package, which requires congressional approval, would cut \$40 billion from Mr. Reagan's proposed military budget.

House of Representatives Democratic leaders said the proposed package, announced by Mr. Reagan and the Republican leaders Thursday, was a good first step but the Democrats \$200 billion reduction programme was better.

In a major concession, Mr. Reagan agreed to a defence spending rise of only five per cent a year after inflation, compared to the 13 per cent rise he proposed six weeks ago.

The plan also calls for a domestic spending cut of \$43 billion and would produce \$48 billion in additional tax revenues over the three years.

Interest payments on the federal debt will be \$18 billion lower if the package is approved by Congress.

"It is a fair and balanced package... it merits the support of all those who are responsibly concerned about deficits," Mr. Reagan said in remarks at the White House.

Some of the measures were already included in Mr. Reagan's budget plan for the 1985 financial year.

The new package shaves deficits anticipated in that plan to \$169 billion in the 1985 financial year, \$150 billion in 1986, and \$143 billion in 1987.

The original Reagan budget envisaged deficits of about \$180 billion in each of three years.

A senior administration economic policymaker said the accord should ease financial market fears that interest rates would rise because of a clash between private sector borrowing and the federal borrowing needed to finance the deficit.

Fed may tighten credit

Meanwhile, several Federal Reserve (Fed) policymakers fear rapid growth may eventually overheat the U.S. economy and force the central bank to push up interest rates through a slight tightening of credit, Fed sources say.

The White House has made clear to the Fed that it opposes any tightening of credit that could lead to higher interest rates in advance of the November elections.

But one Fed source said slower growth "will either be natural or forced."

Fed sources, who asked not to be identified, said several monetary policymakers had become convinced that rapid economic growth would re-ignite dangerous inflation as workers boost wage demands and industrialists run out of manufacturing capacity.

Some Fed policymakers have predicted the U.S. economy may expand an annual six to seven per cent this quarter and possibly five to six per cent in the following three months.

This would be a sharp rise from the fourth quarter of last year when the economy slowed to under five per cent from rapid recovery rates earlier in 1983.

"There isn't any good reason for thinking (the current quarter)

is a one-quarter surge," one source said.

Another said that without some credit tightening, inflation — already aggravated by higher food prices, increased payments for government social programmes and a lower U.S. dollar — could rise to seven per cent this year from less than four per cent last year.

While several within the independent U.S. central bank are concerned, other policymakers believe growth will eventually level off and Congress will make enough deficit cuts to alleviate the need for credit tightening.

These officials say they are convinced that fears of rapid economic growth are exaggerated.

"I would expect some moderation in the second half. I don't see (current growth trends) as a major cause of concern," one policymaker told Reuters. He added he did not think there were "substantial price pressures," at present.

Policymakers who are less worried about current growth and inflation trends also think consumers have piled up as much debt as they can carry and will no longer fuel economic growth.

These officials also say that new U.S. housing construction, one of the driving forces behind the current expansion, will soon slow in the face of high interest rates.

Two potential stumbling blocks confronting America's monetary policymakers are business inventory build-up and declining unemployment.

Some Fed officials worry that the economy may be driven ahead as firms try to build their stocks to meet demand.

They say sales of everything from cars to washing machines have been so rapid recently that attempts to keep reserves supplies in store have been thwarted.

Indian ports come to halt

NEW DELHI (R) — A national dock strike involving about 300,000 dock workers through India's major ports to a standstill Friday, threatening to disrupt essential supplies, union officials said. About 65 ships carrying grain, crude oil and other vital raw materials were stranded at several major ports, they told Reuters. In Bombay, Mr. S.R. Kulkarni, president of the All-India Port and Dock Workers' Federation, said coastal refineries would have to close in the next few days as there had been no supplies of crude since the strike began at midnight Thursday night. The dockers are demanding a 40 per cent rise and have rejected a government offer 17 per cent. Pickets were set up at Calcutta port to prevent loading or unloading of cargo. 28 ships were waiting to be unloaded. Tight security has been clamped on the strike-hit ports which include Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Haldia, Cochin and Mangalore. The Indian navy had been put on alert but would not be used for cargo operations, officials said.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Most of the day is good for you to get into those errands and duties that you do not like very much but which have to be done some time, so get them in back of you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can easily handle those duties ahead of you while the sun shines, but later be with good friends. Take time to improve health.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go to beauty or barber shop, and get your appearance improved early in the day. Do what your mate expects of you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Early handle all those small duties at home, and they will soon be behind you. Not a good day to invite guests into your home.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Fine morning for shopping and marketing and visiting a few good friends. Entertain at home.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get bookkeeping done and try to get monetary matters better arranged during the daytime, since tonight you want to be with good friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Delve into personal or business duties, and they are soon behind you, then be with friends and clear up some annoying matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 21) Plan a new campaign for gaining your goals during the day. Arrive at the right decision about some romantic affair.

SCORPIO (Oct. 22 to Nov. 21) Instead of asking a favor from a friend, find some way of handling the matter yourself. Think about finances today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A public duty awaits your attention so handle it early and conscientiously. Use tact in some credit matter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have a project to finish, so don't run off on some tangent or other. Don't take any risks with an influential person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your bills paid, and go over statements carefully. Show your mate that you are loyal and kind.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Much talk with partners should be confidential and without prejudice for best results. Make sure pay attention to details.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will be fussy about having everything around him or her in apple-pie order. Encourage this so that the life can be successful and inspiring to others. One who will have many friends and be willing to help others.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed sharply higher, extending the recent advance with fresh impetus provided by the larger than expected one point cut in U.K. mortgage rates, dealers said.

They added sentiment was also aided by a sharply higher opening on Wall Street. At 1500 Friday the F.T. 30 index was up 20.4 at 896.0 to show a net rise of about 55 points on the week. At 1530 the F.T.-S.E. 100 rose 28.7 to 1129.8.

Government bonds rose up to half point in small volume. Gold shares were above the lows and North Americans were higher. ICI closed 14p higher at 616 while gains of 10p to 23p were noted in Thorn Emi at 694, Hawker at 418, Glaxo at 875, GEC at 210, Plessey at 250, BOC at 288, Blue Circle at 445 and T.I. Group at 294.

B.P. was 33p up in higher oils and Shell added 9p to 680 with Thursday's results still helping sentiment.

Banks ended mixed after a higher opening and in firmer insurance. Prudential firmed 10p to 443 while Guardian Royal moved to 550 from 538.

Notable gainers among second line issues included Pilkington up 13p at 318, Burton up 15p to 270, Lex Services up 13p at 423, MFI up 9p to 182 while GUS moved to 700p from 668.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4505/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2696/2701	Canadian dollars
	2.6060/70	West German marks
	2.9420/30	Dutch guilders
	2.1500/10	Swiss francs
	53.34/38	Belgian francs
	8.0350/0400	French francs
	1619.25/1620.25	Italian lire
	225.05/20	Japanese yen
	7.7400/7600	Swedish crowns
	7.5175/5375	Norwegian crowns
	9.5250/5450	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	392.50/393.00	U.S. dollars

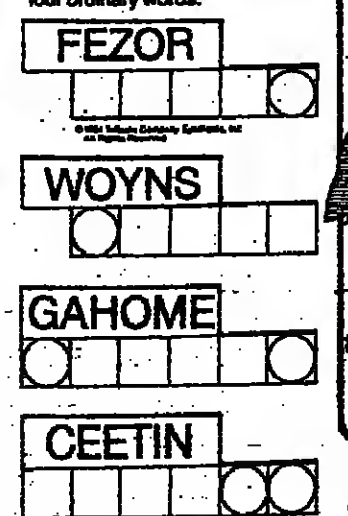
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOOTY HOIST CUPFUL MODEST

Answer: What a cat burglar must never do—PUSSYFOOT

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

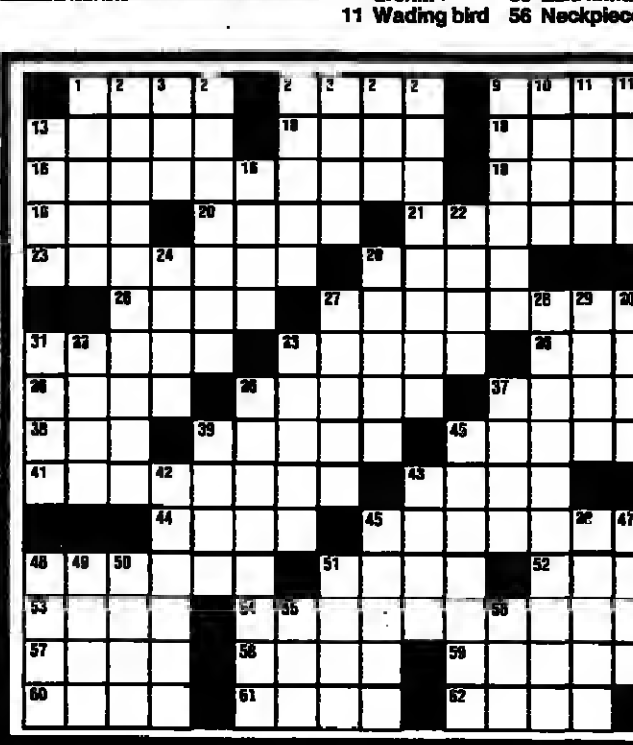


THE Daily Crossword

by Louis Sablin

ACROSS	26 Synonym of	48 Mystery	12 Fr. magazine
1 Over: Gar.	Korea	writers'	Basics
5 Covers	27 Write fast	awards	17 Iniquitous
9 Hound'n	31 Eatery	51 Agana land	22 Drama
quarry	33 Fine china	52 1 or 66,	ward
13 Maltreat	34 Depressed	a.g.	24 Amish
14 Correct	35 Chill	39 Droplet	proton
copy	36 Exercises	54 Cell mem-	25 Tascara
15 Red range	in a way	bers of a	27 Hot
16 Dolphin	37 Spotless	kind	28 Crybabies
18 Legal	38 Lust: abbr.	57 Lofty	29 Tribal
security	39 Vestige	58 Nautical	history
19 Lynx	40 Geometric	direction	30 Field
20 Seed cover	forms	59 Ms. Bayes	figures
21 Move	41 Snoopy	et al.	31 Planter
unsteadily	person	60 Friend in	32 Nona
23 Polish	43 Vault	need	home: var.
port	44 Far from	61 Fless	33 Suspicious
25 Movie	difficult	62 Chore	36 Transverse
"elephant	45 Violent	wind	atripe
boy"			37 Pressure

DOWN	1 Sea wolf	39 Ski lift
2 Johnny	40 Remark	42 Every 12
3 Part of	43 River duck	45 Teewees
La.	46 Barbecue	item
4 One who	47 Kinski role	48 Comical
tells tales	Kell	49 Pekar
5 Red leader	action	50 Annoy
6 Man on a	51 Feds	55 Esac. knif
pedestal	56 Neckpiece	
7 Pluto's		
courtesan		
8 Cruise		
alder		
9 To-do		
10 Street		
urghin		
11 Wading bird		



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S. African, Mozambican leaders sign peace pact

KOMATIPOORT, South Africa (R) — Mozambican President Samora Machel and South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha signed a non-aggression pact on their mutual border Friday.

The historic pact between the white minority government of South Africa and its black neighbour of Mozambique was signed on a table straddling the border at a hastily erected tent village on the banks of the Komati River.

Under the pact, the two governments have agreed not to provide support or bases for rebel movements operating against the other.

The signing of the Nkomati Accord, so called after the local name for the border area, follows months of negotiations aimed at reducing political tension and strengthening economic ties after years of bitter hostility.

Since Mozambique became independent from Portugal in 1975, South Africa has accused it

of supporting the African National Congress (ANC), which is fighting white minority rule in Pretoria. South Africa has also launched armed raids into Mozambique against what it said were ANC targets.

Mozambique has in turn accused South Africa of helping guerrillas of the Mozambican National Resistance Movement.

Security is tight at the border site some 80 kilometres north-west of the Mozambican capital of Maputo.

South Africa said last week that Mozambique had apparently invited a number of black African heads of state to attend the signing.

Several African countries have expressed their support for Moz-

ambique, including Tanzania, which has been one of the most hostile of the "front-line" states opposing South Africa's government and its apartheid system of racial separation.

South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha said this week he welcomed an offer by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda to host a summit meeting between black southern African leaders and the South African prime minister.

ANC accuses Pretoria

In Lusaka, the African National Congress (ANC), in its first comment on a non-aggression pact signed Friday by South Africa and Mozambique, accused Pretoria of trying to reduce black African states to the level of South African homelands.

The black South African guerrilla organisation said Pretoria was trying to "pacify" neighbouring independent black states



P.W. Botha



Samora Machel

and use them as agents to emasculate the ANC and drive it out of southern Africa.

The ANC said Pretoria had sought to use such treaties "to reduce the independent countries of our region to the level of its bantustan creations", a reference to the South African homelands allocated as independent territories to black tribal groupings but unrecognised elsewhere as sovereign states.

The ANC pledged to step up its fight against white minority rule in South Africa.

"Our principal task at this

European troop reduction talks resume in Vienna

VIENNA (R) — NATO and Warsaw Pact delegates resumed the long-running conference on reducing forces in central Europe Friday but with little hope of an early breakthrough.

The 19 delegations took their seats at a huge round table in the baroque Redoutensaal ballroom of Vienna's Hofburg Palace, historic home of Hapsburg emperors.

After the interruption late last year of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting nuclear weapons, the Vienna conference is the major remaining forum of East-West arms control.

The opening Friday of the 32nd round is two months late. The Warsaw Pact put off fixing a starting date after the regular winter recess as part of its response to the stationing of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe in December.

Western diplomats said there would be no new proposals on the table Friday and they did not expect any fresh initiatives before the middle of April at the earliest.

East European newspapers Fri-

day harangued the NATO side for holding up the talks, which started in a glow of hope in October 1973 in the early days of East-West détente.

The Bulgarian army newspaper Narodna Armiya accused the U.S. and its allies of blocking the negotiations and at the same time building up their armaments in Western Europe.

The East Bloc press said the talks were reopening in a qualitatively different situation in Europe following the U.S. missile deployments.

Hungary's official daily Magyar Hirlap said: "U.S.-made missiles have been deployed posing a strategic threat to the Soviet Union, while the Soviet missiles stationed are not a direct threat to the United States."

The Czechoslovak Communist daily Rude Pravo echoed a statement by the Soviet News Agency TASS Thursday that the West must drop its insistence on establishing mutually-agreed numbers for the strength of the two sides in advance.

Robot 'barmaid' won't serve drunks

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A robot "barmaid" which takes orders, mixes cocktails but refuses to serve drunks has been demonstrated here.

The computerised device, which has a whirling arm and four "hands," can be instructed to mix hundreds of different drinks, pour them into appropriate glasses, with or without ice. This latest product of California's high-technology is activated by the sound of a voice it has been programmed to recognise, but it ignores vocal chords distorted by the effects of alcohol, says inventor Ron Meyer. Meyer says the machine, which sells for \$65,000, has limitations — it cannot put olives into martinis or listen to customers' problems.

Man dies raising Prince Charles' flag

SHEFFIELD, England (R) — A steepjack collapsed and died Thursday as he raised the Prince of Wales' standard on a factory roof only minutes before Prince Charles and Princess Diana arrived.

Sheffield's lord mayor, Dr. Peter Jones, who was waiting for royal guests at a Sheffield cutlery factory, quickly climbed a ladder and gave John Shaw, 57, artificial respiration and cardiac massage but failed to revive him. Because of the difficulty in reaching the flagpole — the reason a steepjack was called in the first place — Shaw's body was not removed from the roof until the prince and princess were inside the building, Dr. Jones said. "I decided that was the right thing to do. It was a terrible thing to happen. The prince was most distressed."

U.N. panel calls abortion undesirable

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A U.N. committee planning the Second International Conference on Population favours contraception over abortion as a means of limiting families, its chairman said Thursday. Mr. Geronimo Martinez of Mexico, said at a news conference: "the question of abortion was discussed and it was considered to be undesirable, although everybody knows it happens. The committee believes that the best means is to prevent unwanted births through education and the provision of family planning services."

China to have 400 million bicycles

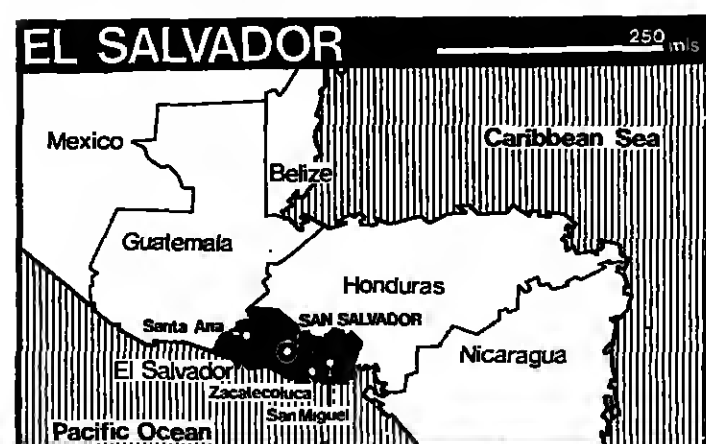
PEKING (R) — China plans to produce 269 million bicycles over the next seven years, taking the nationwide total in 1990 to 400 million, China Daily said Thursday. This would give "wheels" to more than one in three of the country's one billion-plus population.

Boy killer fined

PRETORIA (R) — A man who killed a 13-year-old boy he caught playing the age-old game of ring-doorbells and hiding was fined 1,000 rand (\$800) by a judge here Thursday. Campbell Du Preez, convicted of culpable homicide for shooting Colin Hundt dead, was given the alternative of one year in jail as well as a further one year suspended sentence. Mr. Du Preez told the court he thought Hundt and two friends who were playing outside his house were car thieves. The judge said Du Preez was lucky not to have been convicted of murder but said he had taken into consideration his poor health and the fact that he would face an inquiry at work.

Founder of Club of Rome dies

ROME (R) — Aurelio Peccei, the Italian who founded the Club of Rome international study group to analyse world problems and became its first chairman, has died after a heart attack, his family said. He was 76. After working as deputy chairman of Olivetti and representing Fiat in Latin America, Mr. Peccei formed in 1968 an independent group of academics and policy-makers who became known as the Club of Rome. Four years later, the group issued a report on the limits of economic growth, which painted a gloomy picture of the future of mankind, saying it was absurd to expect continued economic growth on a planet with finite resources. Mr. Peccei, who died Wednesday, leaves a widow and three children.



Death squads strike again in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Assassination squads struck for the second time in 14 hours in El Salvador Thursday, killing a right-wing party official and seriously wounding his four-year-old daughter on her way to kindergarten. The killing heightened fears of an escalation of urban violence in advance of presidential elections scheduled for March 25.

Police said Tito Adalberto Rosa, an official of the authentic Salvadorean Institutional Party (Paiza), was taking his daughter Lillian to kindergarten when two gunmen opened fire on him with 45 pistols in a northern district of San Salvador.

Mr. Rosa, a 54-year-old retired army colonel, was hit by 12 bullets and died instantly. His daughter was struck once and taken to hospital in serious condition.

On Wednesday night gunmen killed Hector Tulio Flores, a deputy of the right-of-centre National Conciliation Party (PCN) in El Salvador's 60-member Legislative Assembly.

No organisation has claimed

responsibility for the latest assassinations.

Four right-wing political figures have been killed since the beginning of the year. In January left-wing rebels said they murdered a deputy for the far-right Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), Ricardo Arnoldo Pohl.

In a separate development Thursday about 15,000 workers from moderate labour organisations backed by the United States downed tools to press demands for better pay in El Salvador's second wave of strikes before the elections.

The stoppage affected workers from the Ministries of Agriculture and Public Works belonging to the Salvadorean Workers Confederation (CTS), an umbrella organisation with more than 25,000 members.

Government officials say the strikes are being organised in coordination with guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) to disrupt the March 25 poll.

Kohl welcomes improved ties with East Germany

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Thursday cautiously welcomed improved relations with Communist East Germany, but said they were still "far removed from normality."

In an annual "State of the Nation in Divided Germany" address to parliament, Mr. Kohl stressed the goal of eventual German reunification, but added: "I warn anyone against the illusion that he can play off our freedom and security against our desire for unity."

He said those who seriously desired peace in Europe "must dismantle walls and barbed wire, stop teaching hate and enmity, and not threaten demands for human rights with force."

In a reference to the walled, mined frontier set up by East Germany, Mr. Kohl said: "Nowhere is the cruel character of the division of Europe more graphic than at this boundary through the middle of Germany."

But he also welcomed what he called "a generally positive development" of relations between

the two countries during the past year. In recent weeks East Germany has been allowing unprecedented numbers of its citizens to leave for West Germany.

East Germany has taken down automatic scatter guns along its border with West Germany and several West German leaders have reported that East German border guards are no longer firing on people attempting to escape.

Scores of West German politicians flocked to the big Leipzig Trade Fair this week for talks with East German officials as trade between the two countries expanded rapidly.

But Mr. Kohl said East Germany claims to want reunification and not disguise the fact that in practice its citizens were not free to vote. "We are not reconciled to the division and remain committed to our fellow citizens in East Germany," he said.

He stressed that German reunification could only be achieved peacefully through European unity.

Troops guard hospital bed of shot Irish leader

BELFAST (R) — Heavily-armed soldiers Thursday guarded the hospital bed where Gerry Adams, head of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political arm Sinn Féin, was recovering from an assassination attempt.

Mr. Adams, an elected member of the British Parliament who has never taken his seat, was reported to be in a satisfactory condition after being shot three times in the neck and shoulder by Protestant gunmen Wednesday.

Three other Sinn Féin officials with him in his car were injured, none seriously. Three suspects arrested minutes after the shooting were still being questioned by police Thursday.

Security across the British-ruled province was tight Thursday amid fears of IRA reprisals.

Rioting over the shooting flared overnight, with more than 20 fire-bombs buried at police in Londonderry and buses hijacked and cars stoned in Belfast, but calm prevailed Thursday.

In 1974 Mr. Adams' pre-

decessor Maire Drumm was recovering from an eye operation in hospital when three loyalist gunmen dressed in white coats burst in late one night and shot her dead.

Mr. Adams himself recently said he had a 90 per cent chance of being killed.

Last year he asked police for permission to carry a gun but was turned down, apparently because of a 1975 conviction for trying to escape from custody.

Mr. Adams, 34, was shot as he left a court where he was facing charges of disorderly behaviour over the flying of an Irish Republic flag during election campaigning last summer.

The case was widely publicised and his movements, normally shrouded in secrecy, could be learned from any newspaper.

Responsibility for the shooting was claimed by a group calling itself the Ulster Freedom Fighters, widely believed to be a cover for the Ulster Defence Association, the biggest Protestant paramilitary group in the province.

Aquino murder inquiry will recall witnesses

MANILA (R) — A special commission investigating the murder of former Philippines Senator Benigno Aquino will recall civilian witnesses who it believes held back vital information, an inquiry counsel said Friday.

He said the panel wanted to recall three private security guards and four airport maintenance workers who were nearby when Sen. Aquino was shot last Aug. 21 on his return from the United States.

Mr. Ongkiko, the commission deputy general counsel, said they apparently held back details during preliminary questioning which they later revealed while testifying at open hearings.

"A little prodding might make them reveal more," he said.

Evidence by civilian airport staff contradicted that of military witnesses, who generally supported the official version that Sen. Aquino was shot by a gunman identified as Rolando Galman.

The government says Mr. Gal-

man was then killed by air force security guards.

A cargo loader and the three private security company guards, one of them a woman, said Sen. Aquino was on the steps of the airliner that brought him home when they heard the first shot.

A ground crew engineer said it would have been physically impossible for Mr. Galman to have shot Sen. Aquino in the back of the head because at the crucial moment he was facing the former senator and surrounded by soldiers.

Still to be questioned are four men who actually escorted Sen. Aquino from the China Air Lines plane, and Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver, who is scheduled to appear on March 26.

Members of the panel, which is headed by former appeals court Judge Corazon Agrava, said the four escorts, all military men, would be the last witnesses.

"They will be the finale," Mr. Agrava told reporters.

Street violence strikes Miami

MIAMI (R) — Street violence flared in black districts of Miami Thursday night after an all-white jury acquitted a Cuban-born white police officer who shot dead a 20-year-old black man.

Police said up to 60 people were arrested. Two policemen were hurt by flying glass in a shotgun attack on their patrol car.

Rocks and bottles were thrown at other police cars. Small fires were started and some looting was reported in the Liberty City area.

Police in riot gear moved through the black areas closing bars, liquor stores and petrol stations for the night.

Mayor Maurice Ferre said police would "use sufficient force to control the situation," officials said the violence was under control at midnight.

Black community radio stations interrupted programmes to tell listeners "Cool it."

The jury of three men and three women took just over two hours to find policeman Luis Alvarez not guilty of manslaughter in the December 1982 shooting of Nevel Johnson.

Genscher to visit Moscow in May

BONN (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will visit Moscow in the second half of May for talks with veteran Kremlin Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko the Bonn government said Friday.

Diplomats said the visit could help spur East-West dialogue at a time when contacts between Washington and Moscow may be hampered by the U.S. presidential election campaign. It was also intended to defuse tensions caused by NATO's recent stationing of new U.S. nuclear missiles in West Germany.

But the diplomats said Mr. Genscher was determined not to allow the rockets issue to dom-

inate talks and wanted to discuss broader aspects of economic and political co-operation. The trip could also include a meeting with new Soviet Leader Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Gromyko's invitation was received in Bonn early this week and appeared to mark a general flurry of East-West diplomatic activity over the next few months.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti is due to visit Moscow next month and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will go there in July. There are also plans for meetings of NATO and European Community foreign ministers.

"It is up to the Soviets to find a

way out of the deadlock they induced by walking out of the Geneva (nuclear) arms talks last November. But we hope these contacts can help," one diplomat said.

Moscow warned last year that relations with Bonn were bound to suffer if West Germany and other NATO allies went ahead with plans to station U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles aimed at the Soviet Union.

One Bonn diplomat said Soviet officials continued to stress alarm over the weapons, which they insist are part of a U.S. first-strike plan. The only notable change in relations with Moscow had been "atmospheric."

Indian, Pakistani war games may threaten peace moves

By John Fallerton

NEW DELHI (R) — Military exercises on both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border threaten to derail peace moves between the distrustful neighbours, according to diplomats and defence analysts.

They told Reuters anxiety centred on signs that this year's annual manoeuvres are unusually intensive.

Tension generated by the border exercises might jeopardise attempts by New Delhi and Islamabad to resume high-level talks on improved relations in May, they added.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence 37 years ago, two of them over the divided northern territory of Kashmir. Each government claims the whole of Kashmir as its own.

"I do not believe anyone is losing sleep over the military exercises because these are cyclical and can vary in size from one year to the next. But they're dangerous and cause concern," said one diplomat.

A defence official at one embassy said talk of war had been circulating in New Delhi since Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's son and a political heir apparent, Rajiv, stated last month he believed Pakistan might invade the Indian sector of Kashmir within a year.

Rajiv Gandhi said Pakistan's Armed Forces were carrying out major ground and air exercises in the Kashmir area.

The commander of Indian troops guarding the Kashmir border, Lieutenant-General P.N. Hoon, told newsmen at the weekend his men had been ordered to be alert because of what he said was unusual and extraordinary Pakistani military activity.

Pakistani troops were digging trenches closer to the line of control separating the Indian and Pakistani sectors and had fired on his soldiers the previous week, he added.

Politicians of India's Ruling Congress (I) Party have repeatedly expressed concern at what they say is a threat posed by Pakistan's purchases of U.S. weapons.

They have also hinted that they believe Pakistan has a hand in India's communal troubles in mainly Muslim Kashmir and between Sikhs and Hindus in the northern border state of Punjab.

Prime Minister Gandhi has spoken of domestic and foreign threats to destabilise India — a message which seems to be the major theme of her party as it prepares for elections which must be held by January.

Diplomats said there have been reports since 1982 that Pakistani dissidents of the outlawed Al-Zul-fikar guerrilla group have infiltrated from both Afghanistan and India to carry out sabotage in Pakistan.

Defence and diplomatic sources in New Delhi told Reuters that India's troops were also conducting large-scale exercises in border areas, apparently some weeks after annual manoeuvres normally end.

Large formations from India's southern, western and central commands are involved, together with unusual deployments of armoured units, they added.

The war games are believed to be taking place both in the north-west Kashmir region and the western border desert in Rajasthan state, near the town of Bikaner.

"Clearly it is not in anyone's interest to start a shooting match," said a diplomat. "But public perceptions have a way of becoming reality."

He said he thought Indian military deployment was partly an attempt to create an appropriate atmosphere for Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov's talks here last week during which he discussed arms supplies.

"It is election year in India," an Indian defence analyst said. "That may also be an element in this."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WATCH THOSE UNDERTRICKS

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ Q1075
♥ 32
♦ Q7543
♠ 75

WEST EAST
♦ 2 ♦ A9843
♥ 74 ♥ A95
♦ A16 ♦ 10982
♠ KQ10863249

SOUTH
♦ KJ6
♥ KQJ1086
♦ K
♠ A14

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1♥
2♦ Pass Pass Double
Pass 2♦ Pass 2♥
Pass 2♦ Pass 3♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.
There was great excitement recently in New Orleans in the final of the Grand National Team Championship between Atlanta and San Francisco. With one hand to play, San Francisco led by 2 International Match Points, and this was the final deal.

The auction shown features San Francisco in the North-South seats, and Peter Pender became declarer at three hearts. West led the king of clubs and declarer made the normal holdup play. East ruffed the club continuation and led a dia-

mond to his partner's ace to get another club ruff.

The defenders continued with ace of spades, on which declarer dropped the king, and a spade ruff. A club was ruffed with the ace of trumps, but declarer was

able to piteb his last spade on this trick, so he ended up down three for a loss of 150 points. Had declarer won the ace of clubs at trick one and led a trump, he could have held the ace to one trick.

In the other room, the San Francisco in the West seat opened the bidding with one club and Larry Gould of Atlanta became declarer at two hearts. If he went down no more than two tricks, the match would be tied; if he went down only one or made the contract, Atlanta would win.

Here the opening lead was the singleton spade. East won the ace and shifted to a club. After muck thought, declarer decided that he could make his contract if East started with a doubleton club, so he, too, ducked. Now it went ace of clubs, club ruff, spade ruff, club ruff, spade ruff, and declarer still had to lose a trick to each of the two red aces. So it was down three here as well, and San Francisco retained the title it had won in 1982.